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Columbia College Chicago

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THE COLUMBIA CHRONICLE

Volume 52, Issue 15

ColumbiaChronicle.com



Medical cannabis
may be coming
to Rogers Park

PAGE 33

Local theater group
provides creative
outlet for inmates

PAGE 13



Dec.
12
2016

» Courtesy JERRY TARRER



College hires new CFO after national search

» **ANDREA SALCEDO LLAURADO**
CAMPUS EDITOR

FOLLOWING A SERIES of short-term chief financial officers and a nearly eight-month national search, President and CEO Kwang-Wu Kim announced in a Dec. 6 email that Jerry Tarrer is the new senior vice president of Business Affairs and CFO.

Tarrer is currently the associate vice chancellor for Business and Financial Services and CFO at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Originally from Chicago, Tarrer has experience managing finances at his previous institution. He also has investment and financial markets and budget analysis experience and is scheduled to start his new position Jan. 17, 2017, according to the Dec. 6 email.

"To our college's senior management team, Jerry brings a proven ability to distill

complex financial matters, strong business acumen and a collaborative management style," Kim stated in the email. "I look forward to having him as a partner in the work of moving the college to greater financial strength and sustainability."

At UWM, Tarrer led the university under financial constraints, worked to develop new budget models and administered its financial portfolio, according to Kim's email.

Kim declined an interview with The Chronicle as of press time.

Tarrer will be replacing Richard Dowsek, interim vice president of Business Affairs and CFO, who took the position after Michelle Gates left the college during the Spring 2016 Semester, less than two years after she assumed the position in June 2014, as reported Feb. 29 by The Chronicle.

Tarrer said he is excited about coming to Columbia because of how it aligns with his professional and personal experience.

"I see this as a wonderful opportunity for myself to come into Columbia and contribute to what I believe has a very strong mission," Tarrer said.

Tarrer has a master's degree in finance from the University of Chicago and a bachelor's degree in mathematics from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Tarrer's wife, Gloria Tarrer, is a 1995 alumna, according to Kim's email.

The new administrator has experience with dealing with colleges "rationalizing facilities" that have large faculty and staff and undergone enrollment declines, according to Bill Wolf, chairman of the board of trustees who assisted Kim in choosing from the available candidates.

SEE CFO, PAGE 11

January 2017	Jerry Tarrer
February 2016	(10 months in office) Richard Dowsek
June 2014	(1 year & 9 months in office) Michelle Gates
November 2013	(7 months in office) Richard Dowsek
August 2013	(3 months in office) Kevin Doherty
May 2012	(1 year & 3 months in office) Kenneth Gotsch
January 2010	(1 year & 5 months in office) Patricia Heath
	Michael Desalle (21 years in office)



New CFO needs to bring financial confidence back

» MEGAN BENNETT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As reported on the Front Page, the college has completed its national search for a new vice president of Business Affairs and CFO.

Jerry Tarrer, who will be assuming the position in January 2017, comes from the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee where he helped “steer that institution through financially challenging times,” according to a Dec. 6 email from President and CEO Kwang-Wu Kim.

While several higher-ups, including Kim, and the Chairman of the Board of Trustees Bill Wolf deny that Columbia is in a difficult financial state, despite the 9.4 percent enrollment drop the college saw in the Fall 2016 Semester—as reported Oct. 3 by The Chronicle—Tarrer’s experience working with institutions facing enrollment decline and financial struggles will help Columbia as its departments and schools face annual cuts.

In addition to having his work cut out for him, Tarrer is succeeding a long line of short-term CFOs. As reported Feb. 29 by The Chronicle, former Vice President of Business Affairs and CFO Michelle Gates’ departure marked the college’s fifth financial head in five years. Richard Dowsek, who assumed the interim position for the second time after she left, has worked at the college longer than some of his permanent predecessors.

For Tarrer to succeed and have an impact on Columbia’s financial operations, he needs to stay long-term, even when the work becomes difficult or unlike his public institution experience.

Though Kim, Dowsek and Wolf remain steadfast in their confidence, faculty staff and students have been disheartened for many years. Annual revenue has decreased along with the student body, with the instructional departments’ budgets taking the biggest hit and administrative expenses remaining stable or increasing. In the 2016–2017 fiscal year budget, Dowsek also said more money is being taken from the college’s endowments to pay for Strategic Plan initiatives and, at the time, there was still \$2 million that needed to be cut from “non-strategic” expenses.

The college also recently announced an approximately 4 percent tuition increase scheduled for the Fall 2017 Semester, one



decision among others that caused affordability experts to express concerns about Columbia’s finances, as reported Nov. 21 by The Chronicle.

While some of these cuts or changes may be unavoidable because of declining enrollment, Tarrer can succeed in his role as CFO by ensuring the college’s bottom line always rules in favor of student resources. The college has not always been confident in the decisions of previous leaders.

Wolf told The Chronicle that one of Tarrer’s top jobs will be to “rationalize facilities” that the college is looking to either build, sell or buy. This would include the student center, slated to be finished in the Fall 2018 Semester with a \$40 million–\$50 million price tag. Hopefully, Tarrer will be able to devise a plan to make this building and other future projects either come to fruition by helping to successfully generate alternative capital or set the project aside until enrollment and revenue is stabilized.

The college community should go forward with confidence. Tarrer accepted this role with experience in line with Columbia’s needs. He also comes in at a time when Dowsek has changed the budget model to a collaborative style instead of with across-the-board mandates. This is a positive change by Dowsek and something college officials said they expect will continue with Tarrer.

Tarrer is coming into an institution where faculty, staff and students feel uncertainty, but a fresh start with an experienced new mind who will think independently and puts student needs first is exactly what the college needs in the new year.

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Current spring registration shows drop, college says it is not 'alarming'

» ANDREA SALCEDO LLAURADO
CAMPUS EDITOR

ACCORDING TO THE most recent Spring 2017 Semester registration report, 601 fewer total students registered for classes when compared with numbers for the Spring 2016 Semester.

The unofficial figures, published on the college's IRIS website under the administration and registration reports, indicate 558 fewer undergraduate students and 43 fewer graduate students have registered for classes as of Nov. 28. While the official enrollment will not be final until the end of the add/drop period in the Spring 2017 Semester, registration has been available to students since Nov. 7.

According to the Fall 2016 Semester registration report published within the college's IRIS website under the administration and registration reports, 789 undergraduate students did not register. The figures also reflect a drop of 44 graduate students who did not register, totaling 832 students.

The departments most affected by the current registration drop include the Design Department, with 155 fewer students registered than last year; the Fashion Studies Department, with a drop of 110 registrations; and the Business & Entrepreneurship Department, with 65 fewer registrations. All are departments within the college's School of Fine & Performing Arts.

Other departments saw a slight increase in student registration. The Cinema Art + Science Department gained 66 registrations, the Theatre Department picked

up 28 and the American Sign Language-English Interpretation Department added 12 registrations, compared with numbers from Spring 2016.

Registrar Keri Walters said she would attribute the low registration to the 9.4 percent enrollment drop the college experienced this year, as reported Oct. 3 by The Chronicle. Walters added that the most recent report does not reflect the re-registration rate of continuing students, which is consistent with the rate of Fall and Spring 2016 Semesters.

"There really isn't a drop," Walters said. "Of the students who are eligible to register, they're registering at a slightly higher rate than they were last year."

Walters added that she was unable to provide figures to The Chronicle that could confirm the slight increase because the college has yet to publish the data.

Walters said these undisclosed numbers reflect a slightly higher re-registration rate at the undergraduate level as compared with last year's. She added that the drop in graduate students' registration figures can be attributed to their being less motivated to register quickly for classes because they know space is available in their courses.

Walters said there are fewer students with financial holds when compared with last year, but was also unable to provide exact figures because the college also has not published this information.

John Barajas, junior interactive arts & media major, said he had financial holds that have impeded him from registering for classes for three consecutive years.

"This year, [Student Financial Services] lost my bank information," Barajas said.

Barajas, who has still not registered for classes because of the hold, said all of his major classes no longer have available seats, which made him delay registration.

"What's the point if my classes are already taken?" Barajas said.

Barajas said although he feels discouraged, he expects to be cleared as soon as he submits the requisite paperwork, but he is considering taking general courses at a community college if he is unable to find seats in classes for his major.

"It's really frustrating because I already have to stay in school and figure everything out," Barajas said. "This is a slap in the face. Do you still want me to be here? Why am I struggling so much to be in classes if there's a chance that I can't even be in it because [Student Financial Services] messes up on getting information or messing up with our documents?"

According to a Dec. 8 email college spokeswoman Anjali Julka sent to The Chronicle, SFS stated students are able to register for the Spring 2017 Semester, despite the absence of Monetary Award Program grants.

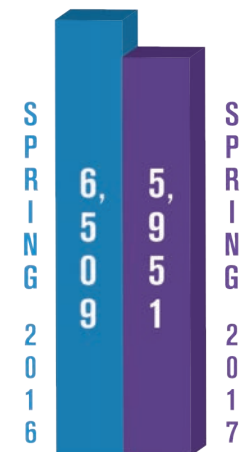
The Chronicle requested an interview with Cynthia Grunden, assistant vice president of Student Financial Services, but she was not made available by the college News Office.

"If a student pays his or her Fall term balance down to the amount of the MAP Grant for Fall, the student is cleared to register and allowed to pay the difference during Spring term," the email stated.

Walters said her office expected the most recent registration figures to increase.

"Where we are at this point in time is where we would expect to be," Walters said. "It looks alarming when you look at the wrong numbers, but when you actually look at the rate of re-registration considering who's here now, who's eligible to register and who's not graduating in the end of the Fall, the rate is a little bit higher than last year. It's looking pretty good."

Undergraduate Spring Registration



Despite registering for classes, sophomore business & entrepreneurship major Michael Iuliano will not be returning for classes next semester because of job opportunities in the music industry, he said. Iuliano added that the cost of attending Columbia and the recent tuition increase also played a role in his decision to leave the college.

Although Iuliano praised the connections and the exposure to the industry he has gained by attending Columbia, he said the curriculum left him wanting more.

"A lot of the time in the classroom, I am not learning as much as I should be," Iuliano said. "That is what I took away from Columbia."

Walters remained optimistic and added that registration numbers will "definitely" increase by the start of Spring 2017 Semester; however, she was unable to predict by how much.

Walters added that students with holds will continue to be cleared for registration until Jan. 28, 2017.

"We will expect to be clearing holds on that day because that's historically what has happened," Walters said. "We're not done registering students yet for sure."

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Fine and Performing Arts



	'16	'17	Change
Design:	673	518	-155
Fashion Studies:	563	453	-110
Theatre:	701	729	28

Liberal Arts & Sciences



	'16	'17	Change
Creative Writing:	247	217	-30
HHSS:	37	43	6
American Sign Language:	98	110	12

Media Arts



	'16	'17	Change
Audio Arts & Acoustics:	363	317	-46
Journalism:	237	198	-39
Cinema Art + Science:	1,159	1,225	66

No School



	'16	'17	Change
Interdisciplinary Major:	52	34	-18
No Department:	32	67	35

Alumnus cast as 'Narcos' series regular

» Courtesy MICHAEL STAHL-DAVID



Michael Stahl-David, 2005 theatre alumnus, has been cast as a series regular for Season 3 of the Netflix original 'Narcos.'

that although "Narcos" has a large following, he is not anxious about working on this project.

"I'm having this amazing experience of getting to live abroad," Stahl-David said. "The directors have been so good, the people who I've been working with have been so great and the writing's good, so it doesn't make me feel nervous."

According to a January study by NBCUniversal Head of Research Alan Wurtzel, "Narcos" averaged 3.2 million viewers between the ages of 18 and 49 in a 35-week period ending in November 2015.

One avid viewer is Dylan Campbell, a senior public relations major, who said he was drawn to the show because of the action.

"I love the whole lifestyle of ['Narcos'] and how it is based on a true story," Campbell said.

With Season 2 ending in Escobar's death, Campbell said he is eager to see where the show will go next.

"It left off in a cool spot. Even though they've captured Escobar, there were still more drugs being trafficked in the United States," Campbell said. "It should be a totally different season."

Stahl-David previously starred in movies such as "Cloverfield," "LBJ" and the HBO miniseries "Show Me a Hero." He said this is his first time playing a law enforcement agent, and although he has played real-life characters in the past, this was his first time meeting the person he is portraying.

"It makes you feel like you've done your homework," Stahl-David said. "You're not going into it thinking, 'Oh, I could've met him, but I didn't.' You don't have any of that should've, could've, would've feeling."

He said Columbia was a great stepping stone for his career because unlike other theatre programs, the college allowed its

students to work professionally while seeking a degree.

Stahl-David said he would organize readings with fellow classmates and even had professors who offered him roles in their professional theater productions while attending Columbia.

Jeff Ginsberg, associate professor in the Theatre Department, said he has kept in touch with his student years after he graduated and added that Stahl-David was never afraid to take risks and had a great work ethic.

"People wanted to work with him because he was very easygoing," Ginsberg said. "He was also very ambitious, as is warranted by what's happened to him in film and television."

Campbell said alumni succeeding in their careers motivate him and fellow students.

"People at Columbia chase their dreams. That's going to make me want to chase my dreams and do what I want to do," Campbell said.

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» AMELIA GARZA
CAMPUS REPORTER

A COLUMBIA ALUMNUS will have a starring role on the Netflix original series "Narcos," the popular crime drama, which centered the last two seasons on the takedown of cartel leader Pablo Escobar.

2005 theatre alumnus Michael Stahl-David was cast as Season 3 regular Chris Fiestl, the real-life agent of the United States Drug Enforcement Agency who helped bring down the Cali Cartel.

While filming is underway in Colombia, Stahl-David said he is enjoying his time abroad. He added

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Music Department Events

Monday December 12

Breakaway Vocal Ensemble at the Conaway Center 12:00 pm
Singer's Showcase 7:00 pm

Tuesday December 13

Songwriting 1B Recital 12:00 pm
CUP Performance Ensembles Concert 2:00 pm
R&B Ensemble: Showcase in Concert 7:00 pm

Wednesday December 14

Wednesday Noon Guitar Concert Series at the Conaway 12:00 pm
Gospel Pop Ensemble: Showcase in Concert 7:00 pm
Composition 3B Concert at the Sherwood 7:00 pm

Thursday December 15

CUP Performance Ensembles Concert 2:00 pm
Fusion Ensemble in Concert 7:00 pm
Composition 3A Concert at the Sherwood 7:00 pm

Friday December 16

Digital Music Composition Recital 1 12:00 pm
Digital Music Composition Recital 2 7:00 pm

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Student Athletics Association struggles to raise funds

» ARIANA PORTALATIN
CAMPUS REPORTER

LOW ENROLLMENT AND the resulting loss of funding has hit Columbia's Student Athletics Association hard, and now the organization is trying to raise funds on its own to support SAA's 11 sports teams.

According to Coordinator of Fitness, Athletics & Recreation Mark Brticevich, the Student Government Association approved an increase in student activities fees over the summer to help the group, but low enrollment derailed the effort. Despite the increase in funds, the group did not have enough to rent out facilities capable of accommodating its increased membership.

SAA set up a GoFundMe on Oct. 17, but have so far only raised \$55—the total of two donations—of their \$5,000 goal, according to

the fundraising page. Half of the funds will go to ColumbiaCares, a Columbia-based charity helping students in need, according to Connor McCluskey, SAA president and senior audio arts & acoustics major.

Three new sports clubs were added this year, Brticevich said, bringing SAA membership to 250. He added that SAA's current budget of \$10,000 is not enough to accommodate the new members.

"The athletics' budget is ridiculously low," Brticevich said. "In other schools, their club sports get \$10,000 per team. We have \$10,000 for everything."

Brticevich said because Columbia does not provide a facility for sports teams, SAA has to share spaces with nearby institutions, including East-West University and Roosevelt University, but Roosevelt recently

stopped offering athletic facilities to SAA to accommodate its own growing number of athletes.

"With all the teams we have, we don't have facilities for everyone to practice [and] rehearse," Brticevich said. "[An athletic facility] will allow us to accommodate our growth."

McCluskey said he is disappointed but not surprised by the financial issues SAA faces.

"I know Columbia has been struggling with student enrollment, and I know organizations are easy things to put pressure on," McCluskey said. "It's difficult for teams that need a wide open field and we don't have the budget to find another space."

Sarah Shaaban, director of Student Organizations & Leadership, said outside fundraising is always encouraged and is something organizations have done in the past.

"If it's something they're not able to get within the budget they have, we do encourage them to fundraise," Shaaban said.



» ERIN BROWN/CHRONICLE

The Student Athletics Association uses fitness centers at 731 S. Plymouth Court and East-West University, which are not enough to accommodate the group, according to Coordinator of Fitness, Athletics & Recreation Mark Brticevich.

To further accommodate the organization's needs, students solicited nearby companies and offered volunteer work in exchange for time using their facilities, McCluskey said.

Brticevich said space is a big issue for teams because they each have specific needs, especially groups like quidditch and baseball that require open spaces.

"It's not like we can just grab an extra classroom," he said. "I wish it were that simple."

Brticevich said he expects space to continue being an issue, even with the new student center the college plans to build.

"The new student center will have a much larger fitness center, but it won't have gym facilities," Brticevich said. "We're always going to have this problem. It's going to be chronic. That's why we have to develop some form of fundraising to keep this going."

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‘Giving Tree’ gives back to CPS classrooms

» AMELIA GARZA
CAMPUS REPORTER

CLASSROOMS AT MAHALIA Jackson Elementary School will receive new school and art supplies from Columbia’s Center for Community Arts Partnership and the Library as part of its annual Giving Tree gift-giving project.

In the past, the Giving Tree—which has taken place for the past six years—has asked for donated toys for Chicago Public School students. However, this year, it is asking for school and art supplies for the classroom of kindergarten teacher Adam Jimenez at Mahalia Jackson, according to Katie Collins, student engagement manager for CCAP.

Paul Teruel, director of community partnership for CCAP and adjunct professor in the Business & Entrepreneurship Department,

said this year’s gifts will have a larger impact on the students and teachers who receive them.

“We’re trying to affect students for a longer period of time,” Teruel said. “Rather than buying them individual presents, we’re buying them school art supplies and books so they can [last] the students for days, weeks, months beyond the Giving Tree.”

Located in Columbia’s Library in the 624 S. Michigan Ave. Building, the Giving Tree donation point was decorated with ornaments that students, faculty and staff were able to take and replace with supplies, which were then donated.

Collins added that the donations will help about 30 students.

The Giving Tree was set up in the Library from Nov. 29 to Dec. 8. Joy Thornton, access services assistant for the Library, said this is a great way for the Columbia



» WESLEY HEROLD/CHRONICLE

The Giving Tree, sponsored by Columbia’s Center for Community Arts Partnership and Library, donated school and art supplies to Adam Jimenez’s kindergarten class at Mahalia Jackson Elementary in Auburn Gresham.

community to get involved and make a difference.

“People don’t always have a chance to give back. They always live inside of their own world, not realizing there’s a bigger world moving around them,” Thornton said. “There’s students who need things that aren’t actually toys, but paper towel rolls and Clorox wipes because CPS is taking certain programs out of schools.”

After receiving all the donations from the 15–20 participants, CCAP, Library staff and

12 Columbia students dropped off the donations to Mahalia Jackson on Dec. 9.

Teruel said it is great for Columbia students to get involved in the drop-off celebration, which included pizza and snow globe-making, because they were able to see firsthand the impact they are creating.

“These gifts aren’t just going into the ether. They’re going to a definite, specific school, a specific classroom and the participants who are buying the presents will

have an opportunity to see where [their donations are] going to,” Teruel said.

Jimenez said CCAP’s generosity, along with the Columbia community’s, makes him overjoyed.

“It’s beautiful, [the students] love it,” Jimenez said. “We really aren’t able to do this for them—with budgeting and how CPS works—so being able to bring all these resources in really benefits them. If they’re happy, I’m happy.”

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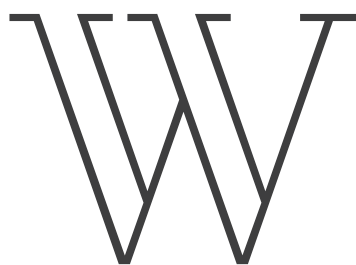
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Manifest creative director hopes to make 2017 festival 'crazy'

»AMELIA GARZA
CAMPUS REPORTER

JJ McLuckie, senior design major, was announced as creative director of Manifest 2017 on Dec. 6 after Columbia faculty, staff and students voted and chose the winner from three student finalists.

Following a longstanding tradition of Manifest, the college's end-of-the-year urban arts festival that attracts creatives from across the city, Columbia has chosen a student director based on how they visually described the year's theme. McLuckie was charged with creating artwork based on the concept "emerge."

McLuckie's design depicted a person, representing Columbia students, emerging from the Manifest star, drawn in a comic style featuring heavy line work and bright colors.

Inspired by nature and the sounds around him, McLuckie's artwork can be seen scattered across Chicago with a mural on the back of Columbia's 600 S. Michigan Ave. Building as well as work featured in campus elevators, ShopColumbia and Armadillo's Pillow Inc. in Rogers Park.

The Chronicle spoke with McLuckie about his goals and his plans to put a "weird" spin on Columbia's largest annual event.

THE CHRONICLE: What made you want to be creative director?

JJ MCLUCKIE: Last year it was an illustration major, [Cassidy Kapson], and [I'm] an illustration major, so, [I wanted to] kind of continue that. My last semester is next semester, so to end with Manifest would be really awesome. I want to be able to design [and] see how crazy I can get.

I'm most looking forward to being able to design the t-shirts because everyone loves a fun t-shirt. Being able to design the posters, and things like that [and] just being able to

have more fun, [add] more unusual things. I hope to make Manifest more weird.

What was your reaction when you were chosen?

[I was] really excited because it was the perfect way to end my time at Columbia, being able to be Manifest creative director. I called my boyfriend, parents, and [Kapson] right away because she already knew all of the background stuff—the dos and don'ts and things like that.

What inspired your theme for the designs you submitted?

I've been working on comics a lot more and a lot more ink work. I wanted to have something more comic-inspired and more figurative. I wanted to add more character and more abstract imagery and more conceptual stuff compared with a flat design aspect.

What inspires your artwork style?

My biggest inspiration is music. A lot of my comics and paintings have patterns in them, and a lot of the patterns are either inspired by nature or by sound—trying to capture the sound you hear but in a visual format. So to me, even though it looks like a pattern, it's actually making a whole composition of the music I'm listening to at the time.

How long have you been working in that type of form?

I've always had my music style influenced by my art style and vice-versa. Lately, I've come to realize that more and try to pull that off as much as possible.

How long have you been interested in art?

I've always drawn a lot ever since I was in a highchair. I would draw TV show characters and Pokemon and things like that. Then, when I was little, I would draw board games and write stories, and then in middle school,



» G-JUN YAM/CHRONICLE

JJ McLuckie, senior design major, was announced Dec. 6 as Manifest creative director for 2017. McLuckie said he hopes to carry the torch for illustrators as creative directors and bring his abstract design style to the annual art festival.

that's when my drawing became a lot more often. In high school, I solidified myself in what I wanted to do.

What's your first move in working with Manifest?

The things I'm working on are the promo posters and the t-shirt designs. There's always [about] seven different t-shirt designs for faculty, students, alumni, etc., so that's the next step.

What do you think the Manifest experience will be like this year?

I hope [attendees] have a really enjoyable time, that makes them excited to go next year [and] excited to create more work once the summer starts. That's why I love

Manifest. It's a big inspiration explosion at the end of the year.

Why would you encourage students to get involved in Manifest, whether by participating or just attending?

Because there's so much here. Every year at Manifest, someone's doing something that is completely unrelated to what I am interested in and yet, somehow it helps inspire me to create something. It's just a huge gathering of people; it's fun and there are all kinds of cool opportunities. It's always cool to see what everyone else around you is making you never really get to see.

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Innovative teaching methods used in gallery creation

» **CONNOR CARYNSKI**
CAMPUS REPORTER

A GALLERY FEATURING work by preschool students throughout the city, organized with help from Columbia's Education Department, will be featured in the Union Church of Hinsdale until late January.

"Children Connecting to the City: A Study of People, Places and Relationships" is an exhibit of drawings, photographs and text collected from a series of seminars conducted in 2014 and 2015 in which teachers asked preschool students what they thought about their home city.

Teachers gathered student responses and gave the materials to members of Columbia's Education Department, the Crossroads for Learning Organization and the Chicago

Department for Family Support Services. The seminars, which enabled teachers, students and childhood development programs to collaborate, resulted in eight panels that comprise the exhibit, according to Karen Haigh, project coordinator and an associate professor in the

Education Department. Each of the panels feature spoken and visual responses students gave to questions like, "What does Chicago look like?" or "Where do you go in Chicago?"

Carol Lloyd Rozansky, chair of the Education Department, said teachers used the Reggio Emilia approach, an educational style that draws on a child's interests and engagement as a basis for teaching lessons instead of following a typical fixed lesson plan.

» Courtesy JENNIFER KELDAHL



The 'Children Connecting to the City: A Study of People, Places and Relationships' exhibit, showcased at the Union Church of Hinsdale with help from Columbia's Education Department, uses work made by preschool students throughout Chicago.

Haigh said the exhibit allows teachers to look at this innovative method and develop unique approaches to teaching the younger students with whom they work.

The exhibit was also featured in the C33 gallery, 33 E. Congress Parkway Building, last year and has been moving to other venues that expressed interest in the display, such as the Hinsdale Union Church. The exhibit also has a chance to be featured at the Chicago-hosted National Head Start Conference in April 2017, according to Haigh.

"We want this exhibit to be around so adults and people from society can look at young children, their ideas, their thinking and their expressions to see they are much more than just people [who] memorize their colors and shapes," Haigh said.

Jennifer Keldahl, program director for the church's preschool, said she has brought in groups of childhood education professionals to see the exhibit

so they could learn to focus more on children's abilities.

"The more possibilities you give [preschoolers], the stronger that foundation is going to be for them," Keldahl said. "By offering something so limiting as a vocabulary test or something that is more standardized, you are limiting those possibilities at a time where the most growth is happening."

Lloyd Rozansky said she hopes childhood development educators, both in and out of Columbia, go to the exhibit, so they can apply the Reggio Emilia approach to their own lessons.

"[The approach] a very expansive way to look at children's learning," Lloyd Rozansky said. "It encourages teachers and children to develop goals together. It is extremely cooperative and collaborative, both between kids and between kids and teachers. These are young children doing marvelous types of explorations and thinking."

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CFO, FROM FRONT

"We want to do that intelligently, and he led a process like that in University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee," Wolf said. "We're very excited about having him to help us do that."

Dowsek said he would like Tarrer to continue to evaluate the financial decisions being made based on the Strategic Plan's implementation and manage the college's finances while considering the completion of the plan.

"He's going to have to try to make the budget each year even more strategic than the year [before],"

will help the college optimize its financial resources.

"He's coming into a situation where he can help us optimize things and help us think through where we can get even better at managing resources," Wolf said. "He's not coming into a situation where there's any kind of problem or crisis that needs to be solved."

Tarrer said Columbia is not the only institution facing enrollment decline and that he considers the Strategic Plan an opportunity to address this challenge.

"It will be a challenge, but it's one that was positioned to me," Tarrer said. "I'm willing to roll up my

I'm willing to roll up my sleeves and get involved in any way possible. ”

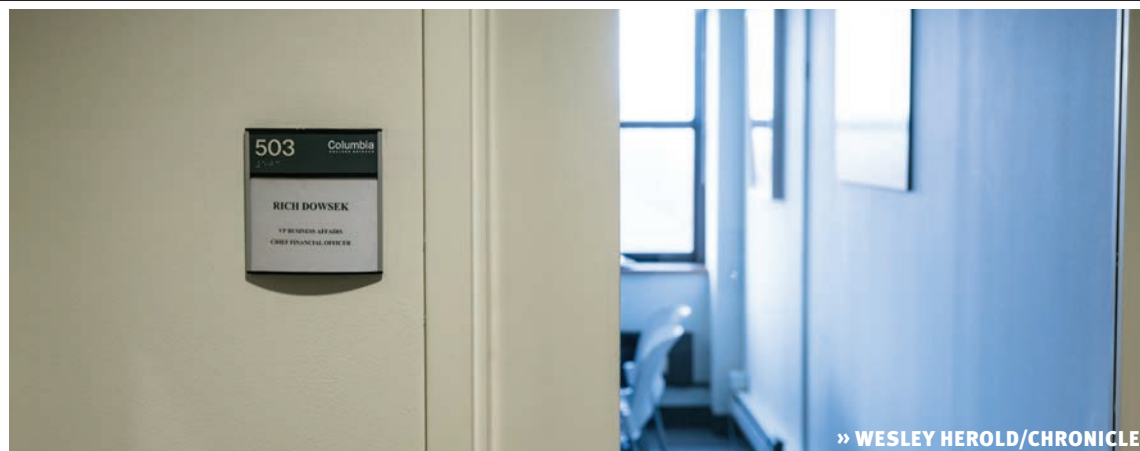
JERRY TARRER

Dowsek said. "That will be challenging for him."

Wolf, who said the college is in "great" shape and not having financial struggles, added that Tarrer

sleeves and get involved in any way possible to ensure that Columbia is around for years to come."

Dowsek, who will help Tarrer during his transition, said he



Tarrer, who will assume the senior vice president of Business Affairs and CFO position on Jan. 17, 2017, will replace Richard Dowsek, who held the position on an interim level during Columbia's national search.

expects Tarrer to continue his budget model—one that focuses on meeting with school deans and other administrators to determine the funds allocated for each area of the college—as opposed to the budget model Gates used.

"[Tarrer] would be more like me," Dowsek said. "Not about mandate [but] more about participating."

Tarrer said he will continue with Dowsek's collaborative budget model in order to strengthen the institution.

"In my mind that's the only way to go," Tarrer said "It has to be a collaborative effort."

Dowsek said although Tarrer has experience dealing with public institutions, he will have to get used to Columbia, an institution that is not as highly regulated as public institutions.

"He's going to figure out what works and doesn't work and it's going to be different for him," Dowsek said. "When I came to Columbia for the first time, I could

not believe how bureaucratic everything was."

Dowsek said he hopes Tarrer will stay in his position long-term and support the college community during his time here, citing the number of financial officers Kim has worked with during his three-year presidency.

"I hope Jerry stays for as long as Dr. Kim stays and maybe longer," Dowsek said.

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Piven Theatre brings improv and laughter to Cook County Jail in Chicago as instructors play theater games with incarcerated women and help them develop a voice.

» Courtesy ZACHERA WOLLENBERG

Prison arts program gives inmates creative outlet

» ERIKA FORCE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

IN A SPACE where fences are electric, walkways seem endless and freedom to express oneself seems out of reach, Jordan describes her son. She takes on more and more of his physical characteristics, morphing into him through improvised words and actions in front of an audience.

Cook County Jail is where approximately 9,000 women and men live behind bars daily, according to Cook County Department of Corrections, but it is also home to the Piven Prison Program, where Piven Theatre instructors teach improv classes to female inmates.

Jordan read from one of her poems during a Sept. 27 class:

"I want my words to challenge a justice system meant to oppress and sentence another victim / I want my words to encourage and inspire, to change the very thought of evil and its desire / I want my words to open doors, and give life forevermore."

The women allow themselves to be playful and take risks in the class, according to Gillian Hemme, one of the program's founders and instructors. They are able to feel safe and free and live in their imagination, Hemme said.

Before starting the program in Chicago, Hemme and some colleagues from the Piven Theatre Workshop went to Los Angeles to observe The Actors' Gang, a theater company based in Los Angeles that brings theater to inmates through its Prison Project.

"I was so struck by how generous the performers were and to see them just experience raw emotions—watching joy bubble up from toes to smiles," Hemme said.

Following the trip, Piven Theatre found a receptive audience for its own project when the founders brought the idea to the Cook County Sheriff's department at the Cook County Jail. The team of women from Piven taught a five-week pilot course during Spring 2016 followed by a class once a month in the summer and finally a full fall semester class, which meets every Tuesday with Piven Theatre instructors.

Cook County Jail serves as a pre-trial detention place for those who cannot make bail. This means the inmates could very well be innocent of the crimes they are being held for, according to Hemme.

"It is about giving [the women] space and ability to express themselves," said Abby Pierce, an instructor who has been taking classes at Piven's Evanston location since fifth grade.

While the curriculum and games are very similar to Piven's programming for all ages, the goals and structure of the prison project are quite different.

The classes always start with a meditation, separating class time from the rest of the inmates' time in jail. There's a physical warm-up, followed by theater games that build performance skills and loosen minds and bodies, releasing stress, aches and pains, Hemme said. Throughout the class, the prisoners and the instructors suggest words that resonate with what they are feeling and experiencing. Each class ends with a poem using those words.

"Freedom from the pain and hurt / Freedom from eating out of garbage cans and sleeping in the dirt," said inmate Reatha in a poem written during the class.

Outside the classroom, women inmates are in an environment in which any sort of emotional vulnerability is unacceptable. They are constantly on "fight-or-flight mode," according to Piven Theatre instructor Becky McNamara.

She referred to the situation as a "constant state of shutting down and trying to stay out of fights," adding that inmates sometimes get in trouble on purpose to be put in solitary just so they can be alone.

Kerry Wright, the jail's deputy director of the Department of Inmate Services and Programs, said initially she was hesitant about the program because many of the women did not get along with each other. She sat in on the first class and could tell they did not want to participate for fear of

looking silly or being themselves. However, as the classes progressed, that changed, she said.

"They got very comfortable with themselves and each other," Wright said. "They were a lot more insightful about themselves as people in general."

This behavior even extended outside of the classroom and into their daily lives within jail. Britany, an inmate with rage issues, "went from having an incident every other week to almost no incidents at all," Wright said.

"This class bring out a lot of emotion and laughter! / The terrible thing is, is that we have to depart for a whole nothing week," Britany wrote in the class.

A male inmate that The Actors' Gang worked with in Los Angeles told McNamara the program helped him to understand the difference between being angry and being scared, she said, adding that he realized he does not have to hit someone when he is frightened. However, in Chicago, where crime gets national attention that often builds a negative stereotype about the city and recidivism is a problem, arts programming has consistently demonstrated a positive impact, she said.

"More cops never help; more money plugged into large system services does not help," McNamara said. "Putting someone on a basketball team or asking someone to show up to help make a mural has a better impact on the community."

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» ZOË EITEL
MANAGING EDITORThat's a
wrap

Fictional role models for 2017

Everyone might be making their New Years resolutions and promising to "be better this year," but most won't follow through. However, these fictional characters have always been great.

I often wish I could be more like them, only without the drama, madness and mayhem that follows them around.

Though they often face problems no one in the real world ever would, there are still lessons to be learned from all these characters. In 2017, these are the people everyone can learn from and try to emulate in the new year.

**Rose Hathaway***"Vampire Academy"*

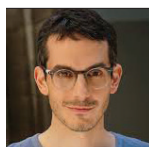
Played by Zoey Deutch

Movie-Rose didn't do book-Rose justice, but she is still one of the strongest and most selfless Dhampirs—half-vampire guardians of royal Moroi vampires. She constantly puts herself at risk to protect her royal best friend Lissa, going beyond the duty of Dhampirs, whose motto is "They come first."

**Shawn Spencer***"Psych"*

Played by James Roday

Shawn is the best fake psychic and one of the smartest detectives. Despite the serious nature of his job catching murderers, kidnappers and thieves, Shawn is always able to find fun in a situation and make those around him laugh. He also comes up with the best nicknames like Hollabackcatcha and Trending OnTwitter.

**Simon Asher***"Quantico"*

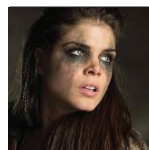
Played by Tate Ellington

Though Simon was a bit skeezy in the beginning of the show, he ended up earning two Medals of Honor and helped catch a terrorist working inside the FBI. Simon made the ultimate sacrifice at the end of the first season when he drove into a lake with the bomb meant to blow up Quantico and hundreds of FBI agents.

**Alec Hardison***"Leverage"*

Played by Aldis Hodge

Hardison is a member of a team of thieves who financially ruin wealthy people who abuse their power to take advantage of those less fortunate. The hacker is one of the smartest characters and isn't ashamed of being nerdy because as he says, it's the "age of the geek, baby."

**Octavia Blake***"The 100"*

Played by Marie Avgeropoulos

Octavia is one of the sky people who returned to Earth after 97 years in space, but she decided to learn and embrace the culture of the Earth-born "grounders." She learned their warrior customs from Chief Indra and how to be strong after the love of her life was murdered because, as Indra tells her, "A warrior does not mourn those she's lost till after the battle is won."

**Sasha Pfeiffer***"Spotlight"*

Played by Rachel McAdams

Based on a real life journalist of the same name, Sasha worked with the rest of the Spotlight team at the Boston Globe in 2001 to expose widespread cases of child molestation by Catholic priests and cover-ups by the Archdioceses. The story won the team a Pulitzer Prize, and Sasha's career is the epitome of journalistic goals.

zeitel@chroniclemail.com



Friday, Dec. 23

TAYLOR BENNETT

Metro Chicago
3730 N. Clark St.
7p.m.
\$16 adv, \$16 door

Tuesday, Dec. 13

R. KELLY

Chicago Theatre
175 N. State St.
7:30 p.m.
\$60–\$135

Thursday, Jan. 12

EZRA FURMAN

Lincoln Hall
2424 N. Lincoln Ave.
9 p.m.
\$15, 18+

Saturday, Dec. 17

TWIN PEAKS

Metro Chicago
3730 N. Clark St.
7 p.m.
\$20

Friday, Jan. 13

SLEEPTALK

Links Hall
3111 N. Western Ave.
7 p.m.
\$10

FROM THE FRONT ROW

Martina Sorbara and the rest of the Canadian pop-trio Dragonette performed at Lincoln Hall, 2424 N. Lincoln Ave., on Dec. 6.



» ERIN BROWN/CHRONICLE

'STOMP' resurgence aims to drum up inspiration

» **BROOKE PAWLING STENNETT**
ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER

ARTIS OLDS MAY travel the world as a musical performer, but he always keeps a symbol of home close by: the Chicago flag.

Olds, a Chicago native, is one of the latest performers to join "STOMP"—the iconic percussion show in which trash can lids and water jugs are only a few of the items used to make music. The show has been performed worldwide for 22 years and is back in Chicago until Jan. 1, 2017.

The eight-member troupe uses whatever they can acquire, excluding traditional percussion instruments, and creates rhythmic sound with them—including matchboxes, hubcaps or Zippo lighters. The show will have its Chicago run at the Broadway Playhouse, 175 E. Chestnut St.

Olds, who has also performed with musical artists John Legend and Kanye West, said performing for "STOMP" is something he has been hoping to do since first seeing the show when in high school.

"STOMP" really tells a story of how we are all more alike than we are different," Olds said. "When you look at the characters on stage, it's a pretty odd collection of people who come from different walks of life, and then we take all of these non-traditional items and we do something that is very beautiful with them. It's a great look at what life could be."

John Green, professor and former chair of the Theatre Department, said the show's long run is proof it energizes its audiences.

"[STOMP] is a totally visceral experience," Green said. "Dance and physical theater are powerful

because the intensity of the physical image evokes something in us."

Green added that it is often the physical environment that will provoke an emotional response, and human beings want to have experiences outside of themselves. This show gives viewers freedom and empowerment through the physical body, music and sound, he said. Performers wield broom

sticks and clamber over each other to entertain their audience for an hour and forty-five minutes.

While not a native Chicagoan, performer Jeremy Price has been part of the troupe intermittently since 2003 and said the breaks he has taken from the show have allowed his love for it to grow.

Price added that travel is a perk of being a part of the show, as well

as meeting new people and learning from them. Other than Chicago, "STOMP" has permanent shows in New York and London.

"It is an honor to be a part of [STOMP]," Price said. "To have four or five casts touring the world at any given time—and just to be a part of one—is a privilege."

Olds said as a new cast member, the opportunity to learn the work ethic and personalities of veteran performers like Price has influenced his performance and made him better.

Olds said a smaller theater like Broadway Playhouse, which has a capacity of 549 people, is the perfect size for this performance; it is big enough to make a connection with a large group but small enough to still be intimate.

"[STOMP] is something people can walk away from and just feel good, which is what we are looking for," Olds said. "We want you to go home and not look at your pots and pans the same way again."



The high energy percussion show 'STOMP' is back in Chicago and will run at the Broadway Playhouse, 175 E. Chestnut St., until Jan. 1, 2017.

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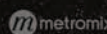
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Uptown studio to fill art education gap



» MARIA CARDONA/CHRONICLE

Rachel Myers, who owns StudioUs, which will offer art classes for ages 4 and up at 4806 N. Clark St., said she wants to bring art instruction back to basics.

» JONATHAN SADOWSKI
ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER

TODDLERS AND GRADE schoolers will soon join Uptown's art scene with the opening of a new art studio that offers weekly classes to a wide range of age groups.

StudioUs, 4806 N. Clark St., a school and gallery combo, is scheduled to open Dec. 15 and will

offer year-round art classes for children ages 4 and up. Classes will cover various media such as watercolor, pastels and acrylic paints and will be divided into three age groups: 4–6, 7–12 and 13 and above.

Owner Rachel Myers, who started teaching art in Seattle in 2008, said StudioUs takes a “holistic” approach to art instruction.

She added that she was inspired to create StudioUs because she wanted to improve on her old location's teaching methods.

“We want to go beyond traditional art classes where you sit down, make your art piece and that's it,” Myers said. “We want to get students to get to the point where they can learn to draw on their own.”

Uptown's art scene has few initiatives—some murals from artists including Hebru Brantley and Matthew Hoffman—and three art studios, not including StudioUs. Compared to surrounding communities such as Andersonville and Ravenswood, which have popular arts festivals and many studios and galleries, the Uptown art scene is “anemic” and lacks a diverse lineup of artists, according to Jeffrey Littleton, an Uptown-based artist.

“If I was an artist moving to Chicago, I wouldn't move to Uptown,” Littleton said but added that the creation of StudioUs is a positive step.

Martin Sorge, executive director of Uptown United, a community organization that promotes economic growth in the neighborhood, said StudioUs has a market because of other successful child-focused art centers such as LILLSTREET Art Center and Old Town School of Folk Music. He added that the market has expanded in recent years due to schools cutting art programs.

“[StudioUs] is just one more addition to that already rich

history of arts in the neighborhood,” Sorge said.

Because StudioUs is located right on the edge of Uptown and Andersonville, it has a chance to dip into the Andersonville arts market, which Myers said initially drew StudioUs to the area.

“Just looking at demographics, there are a lot of children in that area,” Myers said.

Between Andersonville and Uptown's 99,317 households, 12,729 have children, according to 2014 data from market analysis firm Onboard Informatics.

Myers said she hopes StudioUs, which will have small class sizes of six students per instructor, will help focus on art instruction for the sake of art instead of attempting to relate it to other subjects such as math.

“[Art education] doesn't have to have all these other side effects or correlations to other types of learning,” Myers said. “People enjoy making art; people enjoy looking at art. It's such an important component of so much of what we do.”

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Center for Black Music Research to receive new hip-hop collection

» CONNOR CARYNSKI
CAMPUS REPORTER

THE CENTER FOR Black Music Research will be receiving a large archive of materials from Chicago's past and present hip-hop scene, which is being collected for a documentary film currently in production.

The Two Seven Eight Media Company has been working on “Midway: The Story of Chicago's Hip-Hop” for more than three years. More than 180 interviews were conducted with influential figures in Chicago's hip-hop scene and a tremendous amount of fliers, posters and other materials have been gathered as source material for the film, according to Nathan Bakkum, interim associate director of the CBMR.

After the documentary's estimated November 2017 end date,

the Midway film group will give the CBMR its extensive collection of materials and oral histories.

The CBMR will then archive the collection for public use, according to Bakkum. He said he hopes when people around the city, country and world hear of the collection, they will be prompted to contribute their own materials, making the CBMR a hub for Chicago hip-hop history.

“The ‘Midway’ materials are really going to form the initial foundation of the Chicago hip-hop archive,” Bakkum said. “The long-term expectation is that it is going to be a much bigger and more comprehensive repository,” Bakkum said.

Bakkum said he became aware of materials involved in the creation of the “Midway” documentary after meeting director, producer and co-writer, Ryan Brockmeier, at a spring 2015

Columbia meeting with hip-hop community members.

Brockmeier said he had always wanted the film to partner with a higher education institution, and Columbia's involvement with hip-hop and its history made it an ideal facility to utilize the research.

Brockmeier said when he and his team were first thinking about making the documentary, they only planned on interviewing 40 to 50 people for the feature-length

film, but because of the team's engagement in the community, they thought it necessary to speak with a broader demographic of DJs, producers and rappers.

Brockmeier said he hopes the film educates people about lesser-known aspects of Chicago hip-hop.

“We're trying to get a little bit deeper into what makes Chicago hip-hop unique from other cities,” Brockmeier said. “We're talking about issues like segregation, gangs [and] political topics.”

Opening Chicago's hip-hop scene to the public will allow students and others researching

the subject to make their own discoveries by using the archive information once it is added, according to Laurie Lee Moses, archivist and digital librarian of the CBMR.

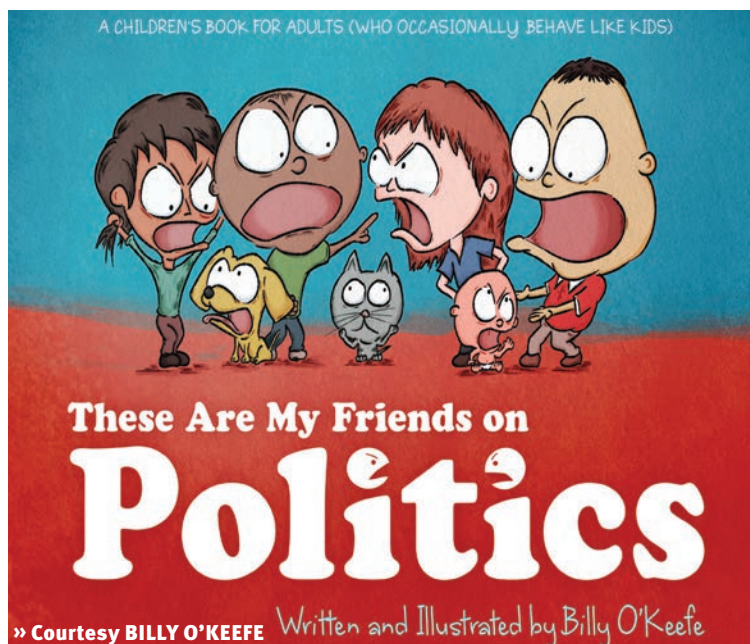
“It fits with our mission, which is to document and preserve materials about black cultural expression,” Moses said. “Hip-hop is a hugely important phenomenon that has spread across the entire world and [there] is little known [about] what part the Chicago community has played in the genre.”

ccarynski@chroniclemail.com



» Courtesy TWO SEVEN EIGHT MEDIA

The Center for Black Music Research will receive the materials used in the documentary “Midway: The Story of Chicago's Hip-Hop” upon completion of the film, according to Nathan Bakkum, interim associate director of the CBMR.



Billy O'Keefe released his new illustrated novel on Oct. 25 about accepting friends and family for their political views even if they may differ from one's own.

normal night out—or so it seemed, O'Keefe said—before one of them brought up politics.

The result was a hostile, noisy back-and-forth, according to O'Keefe. But the fighting abruptly stopped when a friend cut through the chaos and said, “What are we arguing about?”

Everything went back to normal, he said, but he was struck by the encounter, which inspired the title of his new book, “These Are My Friends on Politics: A Children's Book for Adults Who Occasionally Behave Like Kids.”

“People are crazy about [politics], and we know we are, but the funny thing is, we all have these different viewpoints,” O'Keefe said. “We all think the other side is crazy for the exact same reasons.”

The book is an illustrated, quirky guide to navigating life when friends, family and differing political stances collide. O'Keefe,

a 2000 journalism alumnus, said he went through about 20 drafts before reaching the final product, released Oct. 25.

According to Michael Hays, an illustrator and adjunct professor in the Design Department, the genre of children's books written for adults is a growing category, citing the release of “Go The F--k To Sleep” by Adam Mansbach, a popular adults-only bedtime story featuring illustrations styled after children's books with vivid color, detailed patterns and cute characters.

Hays added that books like O'Keefe's appeal to adults who remember being a child, and most people have emotional connections to children's books.

“You are protective of your memories of wonderful children's books, and it is hard to recreate them for other people,” he said.

Originally, O'Keefe said, the idea of the novel felt like a one-note joke that could only sustain a few pages.

“For a while I was struggling to bring it back to a sense of ‘my

friends are my friends for a reason,’” O'Keefe said.

He added that after the recent presidential election, people left comments online saying O'Keefe's book helped them cope.

Alejandra Ibanez, a program officer at Woods Fund, a local grant-making foundation, said she would not talk about her politics with friends in college because it might damage her relationships, but when she got older, she realized she had to stand up for her beliefs.

“If personal relationships are important to us, we need to be honest about why we feel strongly about [politics] and create a safe space,” Ibanez said.

O'Keefe said he recognizes that even he cannot always escape politics.

“I am presenting myself as this reasonable outsider, and I'm writing it for other people who think they are the same way,” O'Keefe said. “But everyone has that thing that drives them crazy.”

bpawlingstennett@chroniclemail.com

New illustrated book reminds friends love is not political

» BROOKE PAWLING STENNETT
ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER

BILLY O'KEEFE SAID he was waiting for his friends at a restaurant when he began watching the table

of strangers next to him have a lively discussion. It was toward the end of the 2012 presidential election, and President Barack Obama was up for his second term. The group was having a

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PAST IS NOT PRESENT:

UNCONVENTIONAL RE-ENTRY PROGRAMS FIGHT RECIDIVISM

STORY BY
ARIEL PARRELLA-AURELI

DESIGN BY
SARAH IMPOLA

PHOTOS BY
G-JUN YAM

When Tana Edmonson was a student at Triton College in suburban River Grove working toward her GED, she applied for jobs to make ends meet. She received more than 10 job offers, but once her potential employers found out she had a criminal conviction, they changed their minds about hiring her.

At 44 years old, Edmonson had been convicted of credit card theft, which landed her an eight year prison sentence at Rockville Correctional Facility in Indiana in 2011. Because alcohol abuse was part of her defense, she was put in a prison program for substance abuse. Advancing through the program's four

recovery stages was difficult at first for Edmonson, who had to repeat the second phase after flunking it the first time because she was told she was too intimidating and unable to interact with others.

One of the program's goals was to strengthen social and communication skills. It was her ticket out of prison, so after learning from her mistakes and receiving detailed coaching, Edmonson completed the program and finished her sentence in one year and six months.

Edmonson's employment troubles prison ended when she connected with Deno Andrews, owner of Felony Franks, a fast food restaurant nestled in the suburb of Oak Park, Illinois. The friendly neighborhood spot, which opened in 2015 and only employs formerly incarcerated people, was the solution to the challenges Edmonson faced.

Spending nearly two years there has buoyed her confidence and personal growth.

"I have learned here at the job that I can get along with anyone, and I can do anything [if] I set my mind to it," Edmonson said.

Felony Franks stands out as a private re-entry initiative in a field dominated by charitable and religious institutions, and for emphasizing rather than concealing the background of its workforce. It is just one of a wide range of Chicago-area programs and partnerships that have adopted creative approaches to help ex-offenders find employment, combat intran-

sigent stigmas and fight the ongoing problem of recidivism—relapsing into criminal behavior and returning to the penal system—which exacts a high cost to the state and the nation.

Recidivism costs Illinois \$118,746 per incident, according to a summer 2015 study from the state's Sentencing Policy Advisory Council. Although 97 percent of convicted people re-enter society, 48 percent of those return to prison within three years of being released, and 19 percent recidivate within one year, according to the study.

Andrews' Oak Park establishment is a successor to the original Felony Franks restaurant on the West Side, started by his father, which opened in 2009 and closed five years later.

When Andrews decided to reboot the restaurant, he also created a foundation called The Rescue Foundation to support his work helping the formerly incarcerated to make the transition. The foundation is a nonprofit charity for Felony Franks employees that provides hands-on guidance with financial literacy, communication skills, leadership experience and personal and career goal setting. Andrews also provides employees with spiritual guidance should they so choose, as well as mentors to further help them with important life skills, from filling out taxes, opening a bank account or understanding court documents.

"None of our subjects have gone back to prison or have been in trouble with the law,"



Felony Franks owner Deno Andrews combines his business background with social justice to help formerly incarcerated individuals get back into the work force.

Andrews said. "It's not magic that we are doing; it's a very pragmatic approach."

Since its opening, Felony Franks has seen two employees move on to other careers. One even started a personal training program, Andrews said. The restaurant has received at least 1,300 applications but only has six full-time employees at all times.

Andrews likens the people he employs to puzzles with a few pieces missing—character pieces like impulse control or patience. The training and support he provides his staff is designed to fill in the gaps.

"Everybody has missing puzzle pieces," Andrews said. "Some people have one or two missing pieces, but they can be big, and other people could have 10 missing pieces, but [they] could be small."

Edmonson's weakness was communication. She said her work at Felony Franks is teaching her how to better interact with people as a customer service employee. She has learned the importance of eye contact and maintaining a professional attitude. She embodies what the business tries to show others: Formerly incar-



Before Felony Franks, employee Tana Edmonson was turned down by 10 employers. The Oak Park restaurant was the only business to look past her criminal record and help her gain practical working skills.



cerated people are not different but may simply need extra attention and coaching.

Edmonson said she is not afraid of telling people about her criminal background because it helps remind her where she is now and what she has overcome.

"I tell customers about what I did because what I did in the past does not make what I am today," Edmonson said.

The Chicago area has more than 70 re-entry programs on the website of Re-entry Illinois, in addition to social entrepreneurs like Andrews and David Figueroa whose Second Chance Renovations, a construction company, was started in 2014 in Brookfield, Illinois. Figueroa is an ex-convict and former gang member who now has more than 25 years of construction experience. His company employs formerly incarcerated people and teaches carpentry to help them rebuild themselves and their community.

Similarly, Pete Leonard's Second Chance Coffee Company in Wheaton, Illinois, which started in 2007, gives jobs to formerly incarcerated people roasting premium coffee called I Have a Bean. Leonard created the company after a relative went to jail and was later convicted. Leonard saw a lack of employment opportunities for them and other formerly incarcerated people in re-entry programs.

"You can have all the re-entry programs in the world, but if businesses will not employ somebody, then that has to be the next step," Leonard said.

Thirty-seven people who have served time in prison have been employed at Second Chance Coffee since 2009, Leonard said, adding that the majority have gone on to better lives.

Nonprofits such as The North Lawndale Employment Network are also creating businesses staffed by former prisoners. Its subsidiary program, Sweet Beginnings, started in 2005 and offers people coming out of correction fa-

cilities the opportunity to work with bees and produce honey and skincare products while learning sustainable living practices, according to Brenda Palms Barber, founder of Sweet Beginnings and executive director of the North Lawndale Employment Network.

Palms Barber said employees learn all the skills needed to work in a professional business setting such as discipline and time management, but having a background in beekeeping also shows a competitive advantage that changes the narrative and perception of those transitioning to full-time employment.

Sweet Beginnings' products are locally sold at 36 retail locations, including Whole Foods Markets, Mariano's and Green Grocer. Sweet Beginnings workers earn minimum wage and have only a five percent recidivism rate.

"It speaks to the level of need for employment when people who have fears of bees are still willing to do something that is so unnatural for them to do because they need desperately the work experience," Palms Barber said.

The social entrepreneur programs stand alongside more traditional initiatives such as St. Leonard's Ministries, which provide an even more basic need to newly released people from prison: a roof over their heads. St. Leonard's in the West Town neighborhood offers temporary housing for up to six months, as well as basic education and career-building skills to men and women coming out of prison.

Chris Roach, program director, said the 40-person house assists those who have no other living options to make sure they do not fall to recidivism.

"If [there is] an individual released with no alternative to making changes in their life, then nine times out of 10, they will revert things that they know how to do best, [like] criminal behavior," Roach said.

St. Leonard's is part of the Cook County Sheriff's Re-entry Network that offers re-entry services to previously incarcerated people and provides support in a multitude of areas.

Nneka Jones Tapia, a clinical psychologist and executive director at Cook County Department of Corrections, said these partnerships are resources to people awaiting release.

"While people are in our custody, we are overwhelming them with programming," Jones Tapia said. "We try to get as many life-changing programs as we can, so we can begin the process of change before the person goes back out into the community."

One of the largest and most well-known national nonprofit organizations in the re-entry field is the Safer Foundation, which connects formerly incarcerated people with programs and businesses such as Felony Franks, NLEN and St. Leonard's.

City officials have also started to provide re-entry programs designed to give individuals who paid for their crimes a clean slate to become "law-abiding, hard-working, tax-paying citizens," according to the City of Chicago's Ex-Offender Re-entry Initiatives program website. The city offers jobs in city departments such as streets and sanitation, construction and custodian maintenance, and agriculture farming.

While city efforts have increased over the years, diminished government funding concerns Jennifer Vollen-Katz, executive director at John Howard Association of Illinois, which independently monitors juvenile and adult correctional facilities, policies, and practices to achieve a humane criminal justice system. She said Illinois' lack of a budget and inadequate

resources are deterrents to new programs, which means ex-offenders have fewer social services to rely on.

"If there are not enough community-based services, then you have a real problem," Vollen-Katz said. "Linking is only as good as what you can link people to."



Edmonson and fellow employee Jason Acevedo, both previously incarcerated, work to gain employment skills and life coaching on ways to become positive role models in society.

As one of the lucky ones, Edmonson knows how fortunate she has been to have found Felony Franks. She is back on track to finish her GED online and hopes to work with children in the future.

"[Felony Franks] gives people the opportunity, [so] they can get a job," Edmonson said. "Once you have done your time, it should not be held over our heads. Everyone is allowed to have a second chance. For me, what I did in my past was not who I was. I have learned from that and the true [self] of who I really am has come out."

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Once you have done your time, it should not be held over our heads. Everyone is allowed to have a second chance.

TANA EDMONSON, FELONY FRANKS EMPLOYEE





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» JONATHON SADOWSKI
ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER

The War on Peace is a relatively young electronic rock band, but that has not stopped it from releasing a large volume of material at a steady pace.

With four EPs and several singles in addition to a taped live recording with the local band showcase Audiotree, it is clear singer Steven Burkholder, keyboardist Grahm Bailey and bassist Jeremy Schering have been busy since their 2012 debut. Though the Chicago band has only played a few shows, most recently Dec. 8 at Schubas Tavern, 3159 N. Southport Ave., the musicians are back in the studio and planning to go on tour later in 2017.

The Chronicle spoke with the group before its Dec. 8 performance on its musical influences, the origin of its name and its writing process.

THE CHRONICLE: Where does your band name come from?

JEREMY SCHERING: We were throwing a lot around. We started off a little more political as a band, [but] we've strayed away from that a little bit. We feel like there's a lot happening in the world, and one of the things people don't realize is that a lot of

Chicago's The War on Peace recording new EP

people aren't interested in peace. There's no money in peace. There's a war on peace happening. We're just trying to make people aware of the things that are happening.

STEVEN BURKHOLDER: Even so, [the name] is pretty practical. Relationships have a natural tension to them. So, while you can apply the global answer, which I think is still true, you can also apply the pretty practical, everyday relationship. It's cute. It's got a nice little ring to it.

Are you working on new material?

SB: We are writing a new EP currently that we hope to release in the spring of 2017. It's coming along well; we're really excited about the new batch of songs. We just put out an EP this year called *Natural Causes* that we're really excited about as well. We're big on generating and putting out a lot of content. At least, that's the way it's working right now. I don't know if there's an end to that.

Is the new EP going to continue the trends set by your past work?

SB: The past couple of years, we've tried to figure out how to do this band. I feel like this new [EP] is finally like what we've been trying to do, in a certain sense.

JS: I do feel like we're always going to have that kind of grand element, and then bring it

down to more intimate or tighter elements. It's just evolution. You do what you feel like is the right next step. We don't want to make the same stuff over and over again.

GRAHM BAILEY: That happens very naturally, having bigger songs and then more intimate in the sense of the way we work. It'll start with [Burkholder], with a verse or chorus, kind of a melody, and then he'll pass it onto us. Songs that may have started off with one vibe start to evolve based upon who touched it first.

What are your musical influences?

SB: I'm more '50s and '60s. I like a lot of Buddy Holly and Beach Boys. For more modern, I

like bands like TV on the Radio, Radiohead and The Smashing Pumpkins. I think all of those elements are there for me as well.

GB: I started off as a classical pianist back in the day [playing] classical jazz. Then I realized that wasn't really cool. I'd say Miike Snow and Telefon Tel Aviv were both really good transnational bands in the sense of moving me toward more electronics. I fell in love with it from there. Those two would be the ones I would pick as far as bringing me into this world.

Read the full Q&A at [ColumbiaChronicle.com](#)

[jsadowski@chroniclemail.com](#)



All I don't want for Christmas is... Staff Playlist

» JONATHON SADOWSKI ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER	» ARIANA PORTALATIN CAMPUS REPORTER	» CHARLIE CONNELLY AD & BUSINESS MANAGER	» AMELIA GARZA CAMPUS REPORTER
"You" Bad Religion	"American Idiot" Green Day	"Wet Dreamz" J. Cole	"Crazy B---h" Buckcherry
"You" Oshea	"Misery" The Beatles	"Puzzle Pieces" Saint Motel	"Puke" Eminem
"You" Jesse Powell	"Boogie Man" AC/DC	"Mixed Bizness" Beck	"Madness" Muse
"You" Janet Jackson	"Trouble" Wait. Think. Fast.	"Blister in the Sun" Violent Femmes	"Cold" Kanye West
"You" Lucy Pearl	"Bad Day" Daniel Powter	"Bad Decisions" Two Door Cinema Club	"Someone Like You" Adele

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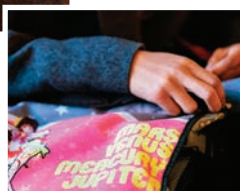
WHAT ARE YOUR WINTER FASHION HACKS?

» PHOTOS WESLEY HAROLD/CHRONICLE



Jamaal Gayles
junior design major

"Really thick, sprawling scarves that look like bandanas that you can put over your face. And thick trench coats."



Kaitlyn Daniluk
freshman design major

"Wearing those winter ear headbands. They cover your ears better than hats do."



Ben Gembara
freshman cinema art + science major

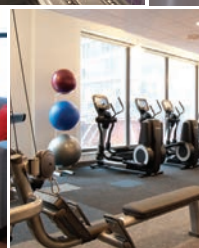
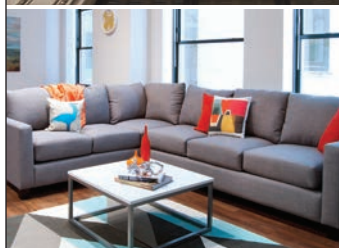
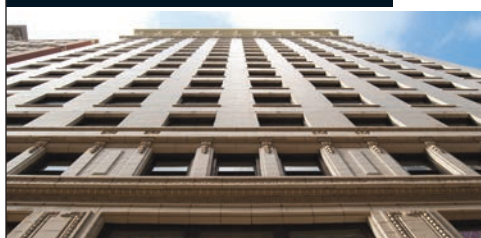
"Lot of layers. I always have a long sleeve t-shirt, a flannel over that, and then a hoodie over that, and then I always wear my denim jacket."



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Holiday Fudge

» JAMES TSITIRIDIS
GRAPHIC DESIGNER

IT IS A perfect time to stay indoors with a warm glass of milk and some holiday fudge. This easy, three-step process is good for parties, get-togethers or a sweet tooth's night at home. The best part is that the fudge has a clay-like texture that makes it easy to create delicious sculptures. This dessert is recommended for any last-minute chefs.

Ingredients:

1-pound bag white chocolate chips
One 14-ounce can sweetened condensed milk
(Optional) 1-pound bag red and green chocolate chips

Directions:

1. Pour bag of white chocolate chips into medium size pot on low to medium heat. Stir constantly.
2. Once chocolate is melted, pour can of sweetened condensed milk. Stir constantly.
3. Mix thoroughly, and pour into medium-sized pan— 9 x 9" works well
4. Let cool, and then enjoy!

Optional decoration:

1. Separate red and green chocolate chips.
2. Melt red and green chips in separate containers using a microwave.
3. Pour melted chocolate in separate plastic sandwich bags.
4. Snip the corner of the bag to create small opening to decorate the finished fudge.



» MARIA CARDONA AND JAMES TSITIRIDIS/CHRONICLE



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our staff's
top 5 picks:

video & blog reviews



Video: “Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2 Trailer”

The sequel to the “Guardians of the Galaxy” is on its way! Join Star-Lord, Drax, Gamora, Rocket Raccoon and, most importantly, Baby Groot, on their newest adventure full of terrifying aliens, space ships and interplanetary travel. The highlight of the trailer, released Dec. 3, is absolutely Baby Groot, who looks more adorable than you could have imagined.



Blog: “Lil’ Bub”

Lil’ Bub is a special critter indeed. She’s a tiny cat because she has an extreme case of dwarfism and, according to her bio, will always remain kitten-sized. Her blog is full of inspirational posts and cute photos, but she regularly attends events that support good causes, and donates part of the proceeds from her merchandise sales to Lil BUB’s Big FUND for special needs pets.

THINGS I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS

» **MEGAN BENNETT**
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A job:

Not a traditional stocking-stuffer, but I would really owe Santa big time for this. It could also bring another gift: an end to all “journalism is dead” comments. Maybe if I’m extra good this year, he will even tack on full benefits and vacation time.

Sleep:

To anyone who is looking to contact me between Christmas and New Years, too bad. Being a full-time college student—which for me also includes running a newsroom—is hard work, which means most of us are running on caffeine and learning to accept bags under our eyes. A nice hibernation will sufficiently rejuvenate me until graduation.

Abundant millennial knowledge:

Despite being 21 years old, I have the pop-culture knowledge of an 85-year-old. I was a year late to the “whip and nae nae” phenomenon and have never seen an episode of “Gilmore Girls.” If there is some class I can take that would explain all the key points of being a millennial, such as what is a “dank meme” or how to use two Snapchat filters at once, it’s on my list.

No political talk:

Come on, Bennett family, we were so close at Thanksgiving. Let’s finish Christmas strong! As a journalist, I am inundated with daily political conversation. With a little bit of Christmas magic, the stress of the country’s current and future state will give way for some holiday cheer.

Towels:

Gotta keep it practical, you know?

THINGS I’M LEAVING IN 2016

» **ARABELLA BRECK**
MANAGING EDITOR

Columbia’s slogan:

The iconic slogan, “Live What You Love,” is gone with the college’s rebrand this semester. After giving myself some time to mourn living what I love, I have come to accept that I will be leaving this lifestyle behind. Time to start loving what I live, I guess.

Math classes:

My tumultuous relationship with math came to an end this year when I finally officially completed my graduation requirement. Although our breakup was a little messy, I think we’re both going to be better off without each other in 2017.

Being a teenager:

Over the summer, I left my teenage years behind me, but for some reason, I just can’t kick those typical teenage habits. 2017 will be my first full year in my 20s, so maybe this year I’ll stop rolling my eyes at authority figures and sneaking out past curfew to go party with the cool kids.

Veganism:

Just kidding. Veganism for life.

Hopelessness:

Pretty much everyone can agree that 2016 was a flop. From celebrity deaths to the election to the refugee crisis, it is hard to find a silver lining to this year. At different points throughout, I know I have felt hopeless or powerless, and moving into 2017, many people are also feeling that way. I am encouraging everyone, including myself, to not lose their hope, dreams and values in the coming year.

NON-ALCOHOLIC DRINKS

» **ALEXANDER AGHAYERE**
ART DIRECTOR

Root Beer:

Root Beer is the epitome of classic when it comes to a nice carbonated beverage. You can almost taste the history in it. The beverage’s flavor consists of spices and roots, tasting more like a backwoods potion than a drink. I dig it.

Mistic:

Holy ‘90s! I know for those of you familiar with Mistic, you can taste the nostalgia just by reading the name. This hyper-sugary beverage was a rarity even when it was popular. Mistic was a retro drink in the most retro decade of all time.

Water:

So, check this out: It’s already in you, it’s super necessary for life, and also, it’s the most deliciously pure thing on the planet. Water is my favorite beverage, mostly because of its attitude. It has no problem collaborating with literally every beverage and acts as their bases.

Apple Juice:

Apple juice is liquefied seduction. This beverage has absolutely no flaws. I have no idea how apples taste so great all the time, and in liquid form they are even better. I have never had a bad experience with the taste of any apple juice.

Coffee/Tea:

Coffee and tea are like big teddy bears. They just hold and comfort you. I find that they help with personal time and act as a buddy when finals have got you down.



APP

“HEADS UP!” APP



» JAMES TSITIRIDIS
GRAPHIC DESIGNER

This app, which added new decks Dec. 6, owes its fame to the Ellen DeGeneres Show. Users hold a phone to their forehead that displays a word as others try to give clues to guess the word. With holiday parties coming up, the app is perfect for bringing some cheer with new themes such as “Seinfeld” and the “Big Bang Theory” and old themes like “Act It Out.”



SCREEN

“SKAM” SEASON 3, EPISODE 8



» BROOKE PAWLING STENNETT
ARTS & CULTURE REPORTER

“Skam,” the Norwegian equivalent to the U.K. show “Skins,” premiered its eighth episode of Season 3 Dec. 2, and it was a doozy. The audience found out that one of the main characters, Even, has bipolar disorder after he made impulsive decisions. His manic episode left the other characters heartbroken. This episode did a great job handling mental illness and the actors obviously did their research.



MUSIC

ROLLING STONES’ BLUE & LONESOME



» LAUREN KOSTIUK
DIGITAL CONTENT MANAGER

As a Rolling Stones fan, I was thrilled when the band released its new album Dec. 2, which is the band’s first studio album in more than a decade. The band should be applauded for going back to its roots and focusing on what the group first fell in love with: the blues. You can hear a little Howlin’ Wolf and Willie Dixon on the record, but overall, the album didn’t blow me away like I thought it would.



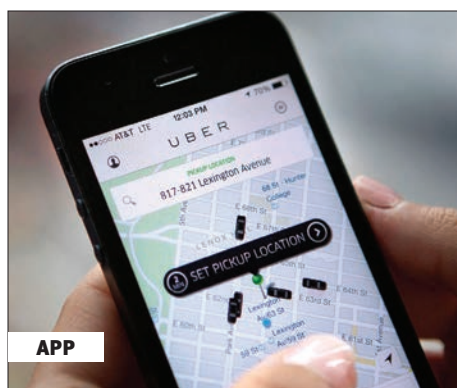
RANDOM

FIRST SNOW OF THE SEASON



» ABBY LEE HOOD
COPY CHIEF

Chicagoans have a love-hate relationship with Chicago’s first snowfall. This time it came on a weekend so everyone could really enjoy or hide from it. I was sitting in a coffee shop and watched it come down from morning to night. It all feels like a winter wonderland until it’s mid-January and we are all sick of the single-digit temperatures and absurd amount of snowfall.



APP

UBER APP UPDATE



» GABRIEL DE LA MORA
GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Uber’s Dec. 6 update now asks for users’ permission to track their location from the moment the trip is requested until five minutes after it ends—even if the app isn’t open. The option to allow location data only “while using the app” used to be available through Apple’s privacy settings but was disabled by the company. The only options now are “never” or “always.” Uber said this new feature is for safety reasons, but it still seems odd.



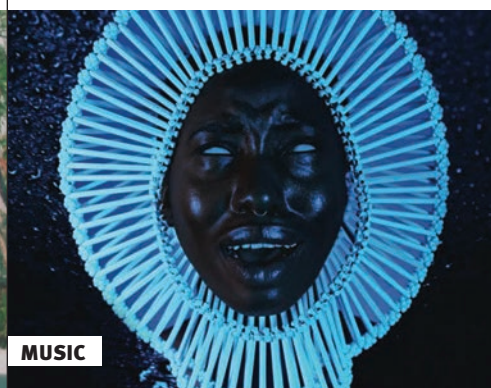
SCREEN

SHE & HIM’S HOLIDAY MUSIC VIDEO



» LAUREN KOSTIUK
DIGITAL CONTENT MANAGER

Nothing is better than pugs, especially pugs dressed in holiday gear as the duo She & Him sing “Winter Wonderland” in the background. The genius new music video released Dec. 6 features Jenny Lewis’ vocals, which adds that pleasant feeling on top of Zooey Deschanel’s voice. The video has everything from pugs in furry coats and Santa robes to 20th century outfits. This music video is all the world needs right now.



MUSIC

CHILDISH GAMBINO’S AWAKEN, MY LOVE!



» NOAH KELLY
MARKETING CONSULTANT

To put it simply, fans will either love or hate this album. Donald Glover, aka Childish Gambino, has been everywhere in 2016. His latest project, *Awaken, My Love!*, released Dec. 2, is purely experimental, infusing “70s disco and funk with progressive R&B. What makes this album so captivating is Gambino’s willingness to test a completely new genre while almost creating one of his own. This album is his most enjoyable yet.



RANDOM

MARIAH CAREY’S “ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS YOU”



» CHARLIE CONNELLY
AD & BUSINESS MANAGER

Call me old fashioned, but Como, Martin, King Cole and all of the classics bring me back to a perceived “simpler time.” Mariah Carey’s pop infused “All I Want for Christmas is You” does the exact opposite. While the message is great, the Carey rendition makes me want to gag. The only reason I look forward to Dec. 26 is so I can get 10 months of peace without my “Carey Cringe.”



Fight against DAPL is not over

Following protests in Standing Rock and across the country against the construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline on Native American land, the Army Corps issued a decision Dec. 4 to stop construction in that area, according to a Dec. 6 NPR report.

Just a few days before that decision was issued, President-elect Donald Trump declared Dec. 1 that he supported using native lands for the pipeline, according to a Dec. 5 article from Reuters.

While people may be celebrating that the pipeline will not be completed on Native American land, they should not be so quick to believe the fight is over.

The Army Corps said the pipeline will still be completed, and they are currently exploring alternative routes,

according to the NPR report. The plans for these routes will likely be brought up after Trump is in office, and because he has supported the construction of the pipeline, those concerned about the effects of the pipeline must pay close attention when these plans are released.

Trump's term as president will raise a multitude of issues that activists, politicians and citizens should monitor, and although construction has stopped for now, the Dakota Access Pipeline should remain on the forefront of people's minds during Trump's presidency.

Trump has investments in the company building the pipeline, Energy Transfer Partners, and even though his transition team has said this does not affect his judgment on the

issue, according to the Reuters article, their comments merit skepticism.

In addition to potential personal and financial conflicts of interest, Trump made it clear before and after his election that climate change and environmental issues are not priorities. Going forward, Trump and his cabinet

potential impacts, as envisioned by the [National Environmental Protection Act]."

The next secretary of the Interior may not take that view of the Army Corps' actions or value an investigation into environmental impacts at all. Trump's pick, named Dec. 9, Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers advocates sale of public land, offshore

The country must raise questions about this pipeline...because the next president and his cabinet will not. ”

are likely not to give environmental impact the consideration it deserves.

Current Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell applauded the Army's decision and was quoted in a Dec. 4 Time Magazine article as saying, "The thoughtful approach established by the Army today ensures that there will be an in-depth evaluation of alternative routes for the pipeline and closer look at

drilling and wants to restrict approval of declaring lands to be national monuments, according to a Dec. 9 article from The Hill.

This pick for secretary of the Interior is another reason those who have been so dedicated to stopping the Dakota Access Pipeline cannot let go of the fight. The country must raise questions about plans for pipeline completion because the next president and his cabinet will not.

Mandatory minimums have not worked before, will not work now

One day after Noel Sanchez, commander of the South Chicago police district, was shot at while on duty Dec. 1, Chicago Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson called for increased penalties for gun offenses.

It is not difficult to understand where Johnson is coming from or why he said people think violent crimes are a "joke." Unfortunately, gun-related crimes are commonplace in Chicago. The total

number of shooting victims in 2016 reached 4,022 as of November, according to a Dec. 1 article from ABC News.

The logic behind Johnson's message is that mandatory minimum sentences will make criminals think twice before committing gun offenses, but there's no reason to think this is true.

Some may be upset that what inspired this suggestion was a police shooting rather than a civilian one. However,

what's more upsetting is Johnson's failure to come up with a new or effective policy idea to address gun violence.

Legislation for mandatory minimum sentencing for gun offenses was promoted in 2013 by Mayor Rahm Emanuel and former Superintendent Garry McCarthy, but it never gained traction, according to an April 12, 2013, WBEZ article.

Franklin Zimring, a professor of law at the University of California Berkeley who was quoted in the article from WBEZ, said New York City is often cited as an example of a city where mandatory minimums worked because the murder rate dropped from 2,250 in 1990 to 419 in 2012. Zimring points out that mandatory minimums legislation was not signed into law until late 2006, which suggests that other measures taken by New York had a greater effect in reducing crime.

The most famous mandatory minimum sentencing failure was the drug

sentencing guidelines passed in 1986 during the War on Drugs. The main criticisms of the guidelines, since amended, is that they contributed to the prison overpopulation problem and failed to reduce the recidivism of drug addicts who were sent to prison rather than treatment, according to a 2009 report from the Massachusetts Bar Association's Drug Policy Task Force called "The Failure of The War on Drugs: Charting a new Course For The Commonwealth."

Even though gun and drug offenses are vastly different crimes, it is reasonable to conclude this policy is not the best choice to reduce gun violence in Chicago.

If Johnson wants people to take gun crimes seriously in Chicago, he should lead by example. He can show he takes this issue seriously by advocating for CPD and the city and testing solutions that might possibly work instead of resurrecting a policy that never has.

What's more upsetting is Johnson's failure to come up with a new or effective policy idea to address gun violence. ”

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Did you catch a mistake, think we could have covered a story better or have strong beliefs about an issue that faces all of us here at Columbia?

Why not write a letter to the editor? At the bottom of Page 2, you'll find a set of guidelines on how to do this. Let us hear from you. —**The Columbia Chronicle Editorial Board**



COMMENTARY

A whale of a tale

» LOU FOGLIA
WEBMASTER

I saw a whale two summers ago. It didn't make a sound, but I saw it. It caught my eye as I passed the "housewares" aisle and headed for "bric-a-brac."

There it was—third shelf up, inside a secondhand store I visited during one of my trips home.

I should probably clarify—it was a picture of a whale—and it continues to be one of the most beautiful images I've ever seen.

I'm a photojournalist, and I've seen thousands of pictures. But this black and white print—matted to decaying particle board—changed my view of journalism.

I bought the print despite its condition. I couldn't let it sit there among mismatched spoons and old picture frames.

Pictured was the tail of a humpback whale. The ocean surrounded it, and the sky above it was a glowing hue.

I keep the 50-cent inspiration to remind me of the importance of journalism.

In Native American folklore, whales are a symbol of communication, awareness and peace. As a photojournalist, I value communication and think awareness has the power to bring about peace.

It may seem silly to compare myself to a whale, but the mammals share several characteristics with humans. Affectionate and self-aware, they are among the most intelligent beings in the ocean. They speak in complex dialogue with songs and codas scientists say have been passed along to each new generation for thousands of years.

In less than a week, college will be over for me, but I'll continue to see whales as a

symbol of the photojournalist I want to be.

It's true that I will no longer have the immediate support of friends I've made along the way or the inspiration of my educators, but I'm not afraid to be on my own.

I want my relationship with journalism to take me to places I have not thought possible.

Consider a whale's size: A humpback whale can weigh upwards of 66,000 pounds, and adult males can span more than 60 feet in length. It can live 7,000 feet below the surface of the ocean. For other species, this depth is simply uninhabitable.

This is what I appreciate most about the highly intelligent mammals. They can't be confined to small ponds or rivers. Rather, they swim among the deepest depths of the ocean where it is dark and unknown.

lfoglia@chroniclemail.com

STUDENT POLL

What are you looking forward to in the Spring Semester?

"Moving toward my degree and meeting new people."



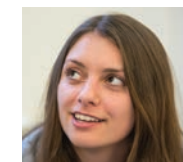
OMARI SEXTON
freshman music major



JACKIE LOUPAKOS
sophomore audio arts & acoustics major

"Looking into internships and exploring some audio gear."

"Hopefully getting closer to graduation."



STEPHANIE KALPEDIS
junior business & entrepreneurship major

COMMENTARY



What lies ahead

» AMELIA GARZA
CAMPUS REPORTER

The years have dwindled down to months, then weeks, and now I'm approaching my last days as a Columbia student. I transferred here two and a half years ago, packing up everything I owned, spending all my hard-earned money from working as a server on my apartment, leaving me with a little over \$1,000. I did not know what I was getting into, but I was ready to get away from the town I had lived in for nearly 15 years.

I remember my first semester here, taking introductory journalism classes with freshmen and sophomores who seemed much more capable than I was. My confidence in my writing and intellect that took years to build quickly diminished. I was attending a new school with two years of college under my belt yet feeling as though I knew nothing. There were times when I considered changing my major from journalism for the same reason I had decided not to apply to college as a senior: my fear of failure and rejection.

Many of my closest friends studied at large universities. Visiting them, I'd often get jealous. Their lives were filled with large lecture halls where they were one of many; tailgates before

football games where no one really cared if their school won as long as they got wasted and living in small towns where only three things mattered: going to class, trying to get by and having a fun time while doing it.

I knew transferring to Columbia would not give me the traditional college experience. My largest class contained 22 students, and if I was going to afford eating and living, I needed to find a job. Instead of being surrounded by college students, I was living in the South Side, and there were definitely no college football games to tailgate—unless you count Quidditch tournaments.

I spent my first semester questioning my decisions, but four semesters later I realize Columbia provided me much more than what my friends at large schools were exposed to.

I appreciate the small classrooms because my voice was heard, my name remembered, and I formed amazing relationships with my professors and classmates whom I know will be catalysts for my career. Who needs tailgates and house parties when I had Chicago as my playground? And collegiate sports may be fun, but I got to celebrate the Blackhawks winning the

Stanley Cup, the Cubs taking home the World Series and—legally—drink my sorrows away to Bears and Bulls losses.

I learned how to both succeed and fail gracefully. There were times I had to call my mom up for money, having spent too many dimes on Ubers and eating out. Teleprompters have broken on me in the middle of broadcasts, stories have fallen through last minute, and I've had countless sleepless nights trying to reach deadlines.

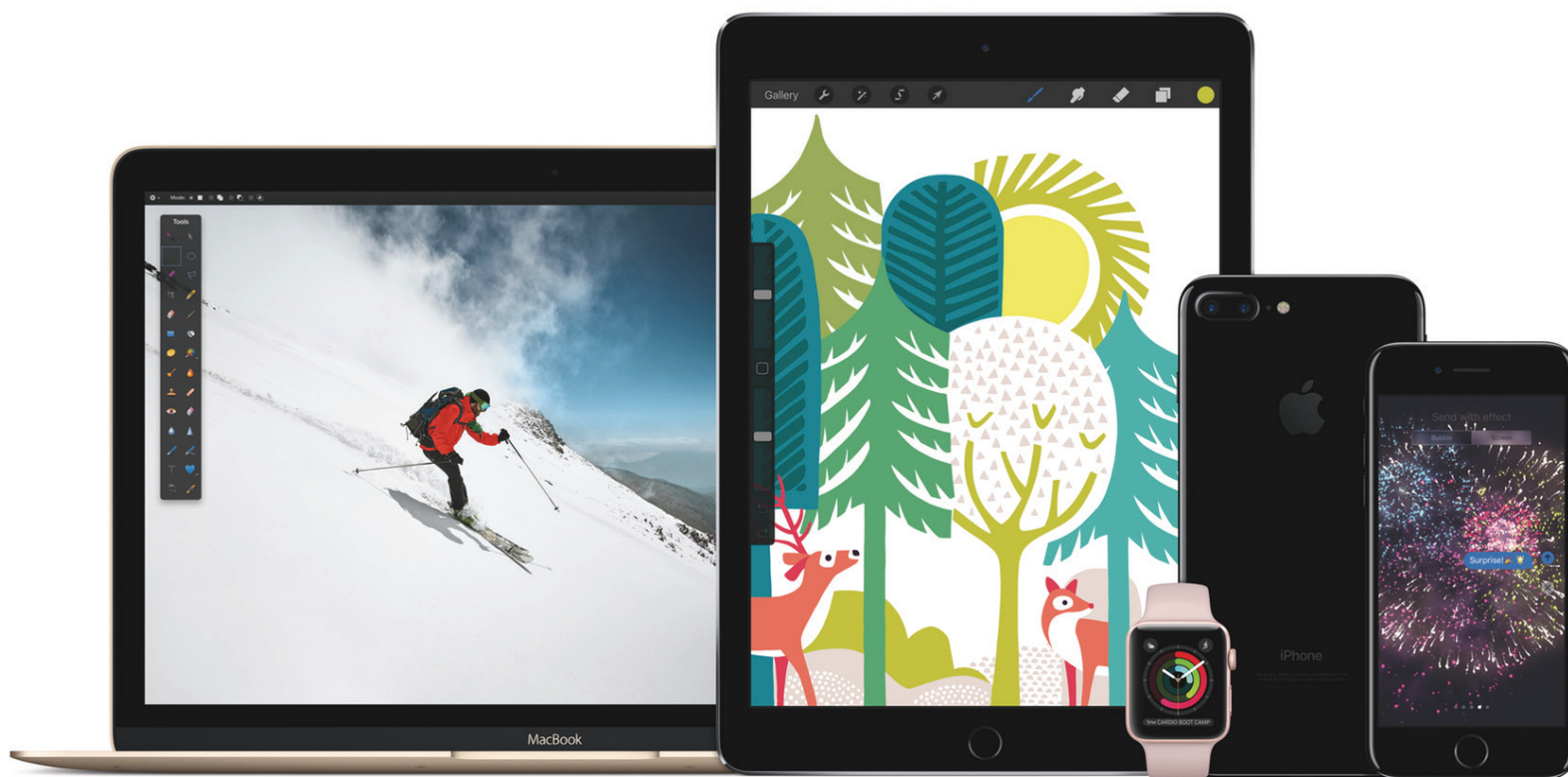
The failures seemed detrimental, but the rewards were endless. Professors have validated my writing with gracious words and support; I've had articles published, had the chance to meet inspiring broadcasters I grew up watching and made the greatest of friends in my classes, workplaces and neighborhood.

Four and a half years ago, I walked out of high school not ready to let go. Two years ago, I walked in Columbia with little knowledge of what lay ahead. Now, I'm leaving a completely changed individual eager to see what comes next. Thank you, Columbia, for giving this shy, self-conscious girl confidence to believe that no matter what happens after this, she can make it through.

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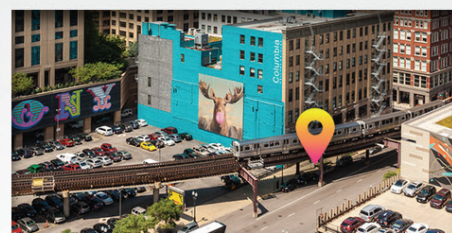
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Emanuel: 'This is no way to run a state'

Gov. Bruce Rauner vetoed bill that would contribute \$215M to CPS teacher pensions

» **ERIC BRADACH**
METRO REPORTER

CHICAGO IS LIKELY to fall \$215.2 million short of its recently approved 2017 operating budget after Gov. Bruce Rauner vetoed a bill Dec. 1 that would have required the state to contribute that amount to Chicago Public School teacher pensions.

Senate Bill 2822's veto came approximately two weeks after City Council gave the green light to Mayor Rahm Emanuel's 2017 budget proposal, according to a Nov. 16 city press release.

"This action is both reckless and irresponsible; it's our children who will pay the price," Emanuel said in a Dec. 1 press release in response to Rauner's veto. "The governor is lashing out, imperiling the system-wide gains earned by Chicago students and teachers. This is no way to run a state."

Democratic State Rep. Robert Martwick of the 19th District told The Chronicle that he is disappointed Rauner vetoed the bill and said there could be harmful consequences for the city.

"If the veto stands, you will more than likely see mid-year teacher layoffs from CPS in order to balance their budget," Martwick said. "We should be ensuring that our kids have quality education."

CPS teacher Sarah Chambers said she does not know whether this will lead to another strike from the Chicago Teachers Union and thinks alternatives to cover CPS budget deficits, such as redirecting Tax Increment Financing funds, need to be explored.

According to Illinois General Assembly records, the CPS pension bill was introduced to the Senate Feb. 17 and passed April 21 unanimously. It then moved to the House where it passed June 30, 73-37. The bill was sent to Rauner Nov. 7 and vetoed Dec. 1.

Democratic Senate President John Cullerton moved to override the veto the same day, which passed 36-16, according to state records. It then moved to the House where it requires a three-fifths majority, 71 out of 118. The House has until Dec. 15 to vote or the veto stands, according to the Illinois Constitution. There has not been a date set for the House vote as of press time.

Martwick could not confirm the reason a House vote was not taken to override the veto Dec. 1; however, he speculated that Democratic leadership made the decision

because they did not have enough votes.

John Patterson, a 2016 spokesman for Cullerton, said the General Assembly is no longer in session and the new assembly will be sworn in on Jan. 11, which will close all pending legislation of the previous one.

Republican State Sen. Jason Barickman told The Chronicle that all school districts have an obligation to meet their budgetary requirements without state aid, and CPS is no exception.

Barickman, who voted in favor of the bill in April but voted against the override, said the bill was part of a bipartisan agreement between Rauner and Cullerton that Rauner would sign the bill if pension reform came with it.

"Democrats have not come to an agreement on pension reform," Barickman, who represents the 53rd District said. "They did not fulfill their end of the bargain."

Martwick said pension reform is currently being worked on in the General Assembly, and it requires more time.

"The idea that [pension reform] has to be done before [SB 2822] is signed is ridiculous," Martwick said. "I would

like to think that Gov. Rauner is smart enough to know that."

Barickman said Illinois Speaker of the House Michael Madigan acknowledged the deal when it was made, and the Democrats have deliberately not moved

forward on pension reform in order to shine a bad light on the governor and Illinois Republicans.

Emanuel has been the one attempting to address pension reform, according to Martwick, and Rauner is acting as a political barrier to that process.

"[For Rauner] to derail this makes no sense," Martwick said. "If anybody is getting the job done [in regard to pensions], it has been the City of Chicago."

Cullerton's aide suggested it was understood that pension reform was to be deferred because

of the election. On June 30, a motion filed to reconsider the bill was passed

to extend the 30-day deadline to send SB 2822 to Rauner because the Illinois General Assembly would not be able to discuss pension reform until after the November election, according to Patterson.

According to a transcript of Senate Minority Leader Christine Radogno at the Senate on June 30 provided by

Patterson, the senator of the 41st District said the agreement was to pass the legislation and return to the issue of pension reform at another time when the General Assembly was in session.

According to Patterson, on the same day Rauner vetoed the bill, reporters asked Cullerton whether there was an agreement after a meeting between the two, and he said no, in reference to pension reform.

Patterson said the interview was live streamed on the internet and speculated that it was seen by Rauner or an aide of his, who interpreted it to refer to the entirety of the agreement. Patterson thinks this led to the bill's veto by Rauner and that there needs to be stronger communication between legislative leaders and the governor.

Martwick said it is unlikely that the House will vote to override the veto because of Rauner's influence on state Republicans and some Democrats, such as Democratic State Rep. Kenneth Dunkin who did not cast a vote on the bill June 30.

"If you had Republicans who can think for themselves and do what they thought was right, [the veto] would be overridden not with 71 votes but with 100 votes," Martwick said. "They do not do anything unless they are allowed to."

Chambers said she was upset when she heard about the governor's veto but was more frustrated with state officials because they are choosing to bailout corporations before funding schools.

In contrast, Illinois legislators approved Senate Bill 2814 Dec. 1, which has been referred to by critics, such as Chambers, as a bailout bill for Chicago-based energy company Exelon Corp., and was passed to provide subsidies to the company in order to prevent energy rates going up, according to Martwick.

Martwick said the bill is a bailout of a major corporation in its simplest form and creates a perception problem for state officials.

Martwick added that Rauner also gives state officials a bad reputation. He said Rauner likes to brag about not accepting the \$177,412 salary for Illinois governors but just released his 2016 income taxes, showing nearly \$200 million income.

"Their priority is not with the students; it is the wealthy elite," Chambers said.



» **Chicago Public School pension bill timeline**

» **DATA COURTESY OF ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECORDS**

» **JAMES TSITIRIDIS/CHRONICLE**

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»ARABELLA BRECK
MANAGING EDITOR

Wake up world, 2017 is coming

At the end of 2015, the Economist created its 30th edition of "The World in 2016," a publication full of expert predictions on what the year would hold. Now, as 2016 comes to a close, "The World in 2017" is being aggregated.

Daniel Franklin, the editor of "The World in 2017," wrote an article for the international section titled, "Uncovered." This article discussed the front page of "The World in 2016" and the wrong predictions that were made on the cover. It featured individuals who the editorial team believed would be influential in 2016. Individuals included Barack Obama, Angela Merkel, Hillary Clinton, Vladimir Putin and Malala Yousafzai.

Missing from the image were some of the most notable individuals in 2016 including British Prime Minister Theresa May, President of the Philippines Rodrigo Duterte and Time Magazine's Person of the Year and President-elect of the U.S. Donald Trump.

Even experts cannot be fortune-tellers, and I do not pretend to be one either. However, throughout 2016, I have been trying to get to some level of understanding when it comes to the world, and I thought writing a weekly column on global news would help me speculate on the events that 2017 will hold.

My process for choosing a column topic every week includes filtering through articles, columns and editorials from various publications. After, I choose a topic that will be the most beneficial for our readers to learn more about.

This is my 15th time going through the process, and I have started to identify trends and recurring themes in the global political and social spheres.

One of the most prevalent and truly frightening trends I have observed throughout this entire year is how people consider isolationism, xenophobia and demagogues as viable solutions to the problems that scare them the most.

Leaders like Trump and Duterte have successfully convinced entire populations that they have the abilities to solve their problems when all they have shown is unprofessionalism, not to mention hate.



Xenophobic policies hiding under the guise of safety and independence, like Brexit, were also able to take hold of a significant portion of an electorate.

While I have noticed these trends looking back at the year as a whole and think I am slowly getting a grasp on how the world works, I am still shocked every week by events I never would have believed were going to happen.

In my final column of 2016, I wanted to try to make my own predictions for the world in the upcoming year. However, I can truly say that I have no idea where the world is going.

I thought by this time I might have at least a slight sense of what is to come, but I do not feel confident enough to make any predictions. And when it comes down to it, my biggest problem with making predictions is not even my uncertainty of my abilities to do so.

The U.S. presidential election this year proved predictions can lull people into complacency. If everyone predicts something is going to happen, people will not take action to make it so because it seems it is already certain.

I would not like to give any postulations on what the new year may bring, but I would like to express my hope for the new year. I hope that people do not look at what others forecast for 2017 as definitive and lose their motivation to fight for what they believe in, or even worse, think everything is going to work itself out without people using their power and their voices.

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Medical marijuana dispensary could soon arrive in Rogers Park

» **ERIC BRADACH**
METRO REPORTER

ALD. JOE MOORE (49th Ward) accepted a proposal by Bob Kingsley, owner of 420 Capital Management, to build Greengate Compassion Center, a new medical cannabis dispensary in the Rogers Park neighborhood.

“The proposed dispensary will perform a vital service and provide much needed relief to Rogers Park residents suffering from debilitating illnesses,” Moore stated in his decision to accept the proposal, posted on his website.

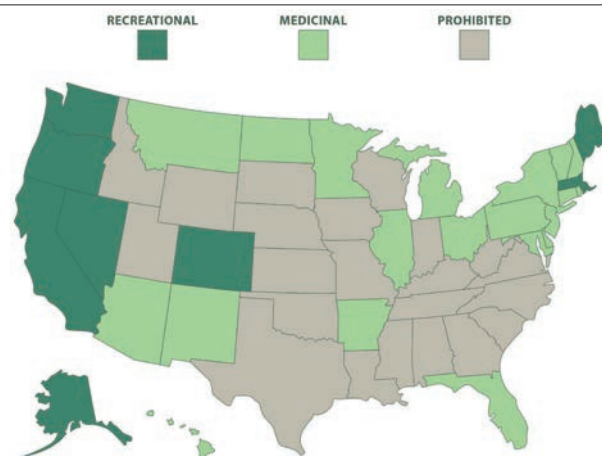
Kay Wallace, co-owner of Medical Marijuana of Illinois—an organization that provides medical marijuana educational resources—said it is important to provide accessible medical cannabis to those who need it because it is an effective alternative to prescription painkillers, which have more addictive components.

“[Patients] use it when they need it as far as pain reduction,” Wallace said. “These are patients who are using it to maintain a decent quality of life.”

Paul Lee, manager of Dispensary 33, a medical cannabis dispensary at 5001 N. Clark St., said medical cannabis and prescription painkillers both have their place in tackling pain management.

For serious pain, such as after surgery, opioids might be the better option; however, medical cannabis can be used as a bridge to ease off opioids, he added.

According to Moore’s website, in order to construct Greengate Compassion Center, 1930 W. Chase Ave., the property zoning must be changed from its current B-1 designation to B-3 by City Council, which allows for a greater business diversity. It will also require a special use permit from the City of Chicago Zoning Board of Appeals with approval from the



Data Courtesy National Conference of State Legislatures, National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws

Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation.

If approved, this will be the 48th licensed dispensary in Illinois and the seventh in Chicago, according to Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation data.

Wallace said in order to obtain a medical marijuana identification card in Illinois, a patient must get a recommendation from a certified physician and complete an application, which must be approved by the Illinois Department of Public Health. The individual also needs

to be fingerprinted for a possible criminal background check.

According to IDPH data, qualifying medical conditions for marijuana treatment include cancer, sexual transmitted diseases and rheumatoid arthritis.

Brandon Smith, a manager at another medical marijuana dispensary which he requested not be identified by The Chronicle, said providing accessible medical marijuana takes away from the dangers of obtaining the product in the black market.

» **GABRIEL DE LA MORA/CHRONICLE**

“By providing a safe, regulated access point for cannabis, it takes away people moving their cash around in the streets,” Smith said.

Lee said most people want to use cannabis legally, so it makes sense to construct more avenues to obtain it.

“Once they start to use and visit a legal dispensary, they choose to never go back to the black market,” Lee said.

Society has become more accepting of cannabis for medical use, according to Wallace; however, there are still barriers, such as marijuana being classified as a Schedule 1 drug, which restricts it from clinical trials.

Objective analysis of cannabis is needed for the community to understand the health benefits of the product because marijuana suffers from previous misconceptions, according to Lee.

“Once people understand [the benefits], this whole ridiculous notion of [cannabis] as something negative will go away,” Lee said.

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City to host global waterfront forum

» COURTNEY WOLFE
METRO REPORTER

IN THE MIDST of a major initiative to renovate the city's waterfronts, Chicago will get a chance to showcase its work during a global mayors' forum on urban waterfront redevelopment early next year.

Josh Ellis, vice president of the Metropolitan Planning Council, the organization responsible for the Our Great Rivers project that recently released a report on how the city's river system will be redesigned, said it made sense Chicago was chosen as the destination for the March 13, 2017, forum.

"Chicago has made a lot of efforts in enhancing its range of waterfronts over the years," Ellis said. "We have a more diverse array of waterfronts than most other cities because we not only have a lake and rivers, but the

ivers are so different in different parts of the city."

Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo announced that the two cities would be co-hosting the forum, according to a Dec. 1 press release from the mayor's office.

The press release said the forum comes at a crucial time because transportation and manufacturing have evolved, and old industrial waterfronts are ready for re-purposing.

"As we re-imagine, redevelop and reinvest in our waterfronts in Chicago, we can learn from cities across the world undergoing similar transformations—and they can learn from Chicago as well," Emanuel said in the press release.

Margaret Frisbie, executive director of Friends of the Chicago River, another organization active in improving Chicago's waterfronts,

said she is delighted Chicago was chosen as the example city.

"It's a testament to how innovative Chicago is," Frisbie said. "We have been a leader in many things for a long time, and Mayors Emanuel and Daley have really made Chicago a world class city. [It] is the kind of forum that will draw international attention appropriately to the truth that Chicago is an important city across the world."

Ellis said he hopes other mayors will see that Chicago is developing the river fronts in all neighborhoods, not just tourist areas.

"[I hope they would see] that there are ways to bring people to the rivers through a whole mix of community types and land use settings," Ellis said. "Rivers really can be connectors for neighborhoods; [they] can connect people to work, connect people to nature."

Water access is a universal interest and one that deserves attention, said David Ullrich, executive director of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities



» FILE PHOTO

Chicago will get the chance to show the world its recent river enhancements this March as it hosts a global mayors' forum on urban waterfront redevelopment.

Initiative, that represents 127 U.S. and Canadian cities around the Great Lakes and Saint Lawrence Seaway. Emanuel serves on the organization's Board of Directors.

"Water really is magical," Ullrich said. "People love to be near water, and what is so significant, particularly with the renewed emphasis on the Chicago River, is that these are forgotten resources. They are the ones that have been abused for hundreds of years with industrial and municipal waste and bad land use planning."

Frisbie said Emanuel spoke to her briefly about being involved in the forum, but there is still extensive planning to be done.

"It is still unfolding what the final summit will look like, but bringing these people together to look at our river and our city is a really exciting opportunity across the board," Frisbie said. "Especially given the political changes afoot, it is nice that we will be establishing Chicago's identity as a big city for big ideas."

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Fund brings 'Quality of Life' to Englewood

» **TAYLOR MORRIS**
METRO REPORTER

ENGLEWOOD RESIDENTS BEGAN raising funds to create programs to benefit their community with college scholarships, sports equipment and career support programs.

Teamwork Englewood, a non-profit organization, launched the Quality-of-Life fund online Nov. 29 connected to #GivingTuesday, according to a Nov. 17 press release from Resident Association of Greater Englewood. The Quality-of-Life Fund is a vehicle to transform the Englewood community, the press release said.

Asiah Butler, president of the Resident Association of Greater Englewood, said the fund was created to support early action projects that implement the Englewood Quality-of-Life plan

to create lifelong learning, career success for teens and other community-driven goals.

The funding group has already received a \$10,000 matching grant from an anonymous donor to jumpstart the fundraising effort, according to the press release. Teamwork Englewood is responsible for collecting the donations.

Cherice Price, Quality-of-Life fundraising champion and lifelong Englewood resident who donated \$505, said the collection is a great opportunity for the community to get involved and help out.

"I do a lot of business in Englewood," Price said. "When I heard about the Englewood Quality-of-Life fund, I thought it was a great idea for Englewood residents to get together and

collectively raise money for the organization," she added.

Price explained that residents getting together to raise money for the community has never happened before.

"It's something that's going to point us in the right direction," she said.



» **GABRIEL DE LA MORA / CHRONICLE**

Price added that she is excited to see what the future for Englewood holds because it shows what happens when people

donate and are able to give back to the community.

The Quality-of-Life program has earmarked the funds it collects for various community projects and plans such as a college scholarship for children who are victims of gun violence in Englewood during 2016, a "Welcome to Englewood" sign and billboard, community beautification projects, support for Englewood Codes students and the purchase of new equipment and uniforms for the 2016 Champions of the Junior Bears Football Team the Ogden Park Vikings, according to the press release.

Keith Harris, assistant coach and community liaison for the Ogden Park Vikings Football team, said the fund will help purchase new uniforms and equipment. In the past players had to share equipment and uniforms, he said.

"On average, we have a minimum of 75 kids in the program, and for the last few years, we have

been having to piece together equipment and uniforms to make sure that all the kids are equipped" Harris said. "We do what we have to do, to make things work."

As of press time, 251 donors have raised \$12,968, according to ilgive.com.

Bill Koll—director of the Communities Program for The McCormick Foundation, a non-profit organization committed to fostering communities of educated, informed and engaged citizens—said the foundation wanted to help the Englewood community and believe in the changes that are being made throughout the Englewood community. The McCormick Foundation has supported the process and committed \$25,000 to the fund.

"To make changes in communities, it needs to be driven by the community itself," Koll said. "We firmly believe it has to be community-driven, and that is what has been happening in Englewood."

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Elizabeth Keenan, deputy to the head of special education for Chicago Public Schools, addressed special education cuts in programs at the school board meeting Dec. 7 at CPS headquarters, 42 W. Madison St.

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Too many restaurants, not enough city health staff

» COURTNEY WOLFE
METRO REPORTER

FEWER THAN HALF of Chicago's restaurants are inspected as often as required by state law and the Chicago Department of Health, according to an audit that City of Chicago Office of Inspector General Joseph Ferguson released Nov. 28.

The health department's rules and regulations state that high-risk establishments, including restaurants, hospital kitchens and schools, must be inspected twice annually. Medium-risk establishments like grocery stores, must be inspected once per year; low-risk establishments like bars must be inspected once every two years.

However, the report stated that the department inspected less than half of high-risk establishments at least twice in 2015; just over 80 percent of medium-risk establishments

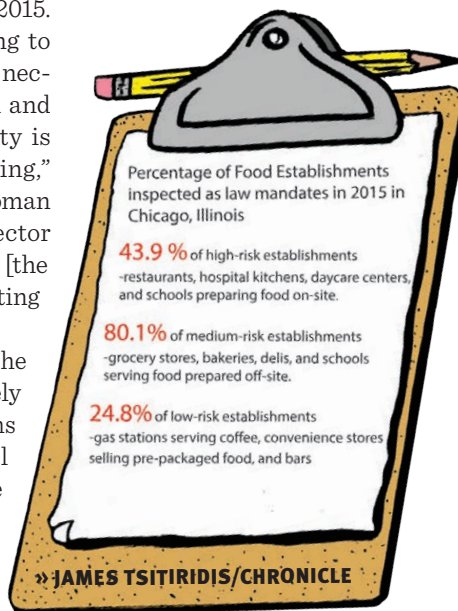
at least once in 2015; and less than 30 percent of low-risk establishments at least once in 2014 or 2015.

"[The office is] not testing to see whether inspections are necessary, we are just going in and looking at [whether] the city is doing what it says it is doing," said Rachel Levin, spokeswoman for the Office of the Inspector General. "According to what [the city's] rules are, it is not meeting those targets."

However, the audit found the department conducted timely re-inspections when violations were identified during initial inspections and in response to any public complaints about establishments.

The audit concluded that a lack of health department inspectors caused reduced inspections. The department currently has 38 inspectors, and the audit

estimated at least 56 additional inspectors are needed to conduct the legally required number of food inspections. The audit also suggests that failure to meet state inspection standards places annual state funding at risk.



The Chicago Department of Public Health was quoted in the audit saying it will work with the

Illinois Department of Public Health to develop a permanent inspection schedule that is "feasible to execute and sufficiently rigorous to promote food safety."

Adrianna Morales, a 19-year-old Roosevelt University student, said most Chicago restaurants are clean, despite the audit's findings.

"It just depends on the restaurant and how often the higher-ups are checking in to each location," Morales said.

It is recommended by the Food and Drug Administration that high-risk establishments be inspected once every six months, while Chicago's rule for high-risk establishments requires the second inspection to be at least 90 days after the first. High-risk establishments are inspected three times annually in Los Angeles and once every 72 days in Houston, according to the audit.

"While we appreciate the Inspector General's review, Chicagoans can have confidence that their food is safe because it was prepared in a sanitary kitchen,

thanks to the work our health inspectors do to ensure restaurants and establishments across the city meet the health code," said City Hall spokesperson Lauren Huffman in a Dec. 9 emailed statement. "We are committed to keeping our restaurants clean and our residents safe from food-borne illnesses, despite the fact that we have long faced a lack of appropriate funding by the state to meet their own requirements."

IDPH, Illinois Restaurant Association and Chicago Department of Public Health could not be reached for comment as of press time.

Dannel Mitchell, a 38-year-old Chicago resident, said he thinks city restaurants should be inspected once a month.

"Usually, [restaurant employees] do their job," Mitchell said. "However, they do not do their job the way they are supposed to do it because people are not babysitting them or laying down the law."

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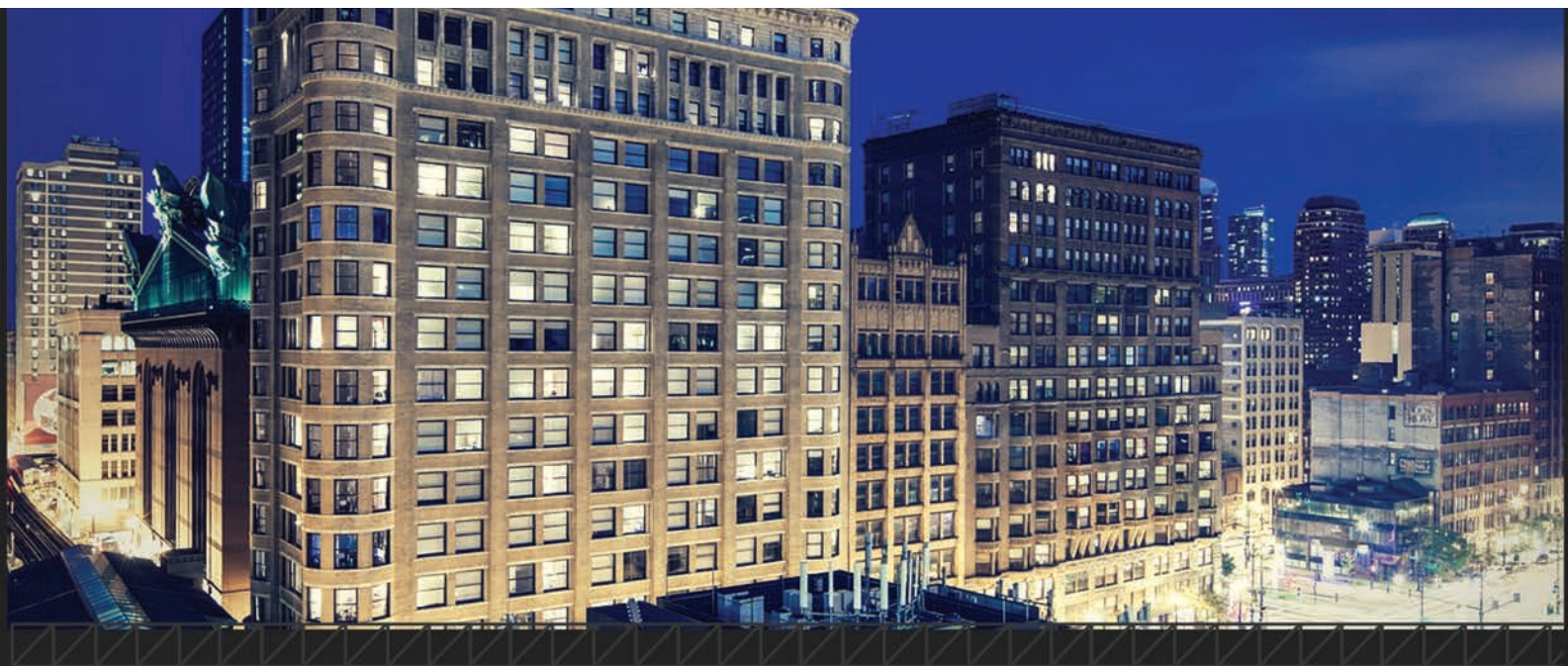
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